Special Supplement in Section Two

Doctors' fury over 'safe' drink limits

BLAIR'S NEW ESTABLISHMENT
The people who would be the powers
behind the throne under Labour

New levels condemned as 'boozers' charter

Health Editor

The Government gave the drinks industry a pre-Christmas boost yesterday by relaxing its advice on sensible drinking limits, hringing a storm of protest from the medical establish-

Making the announcement Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, said there was strong evidence that one to two units of alcohol a day provides "significant health benefits" while up to four units a day for men and three for women will not accrue any significant health risk".

The new advice goes so far as to say that middle-aged or elderly tectotallers may wish to consider the benefits of "lightdrinking", and says that women at any stage of pregnancy can drink up to 4 units a week.

A spokeswoman for the World Health Organisation described the guidance as "ab-solutely crazy". Dr Maristella Monteiro, medical officer in the WHO's programme on substance abuse, accused the Goverument of "being in the pocket

of the drinks industry

will today try to defend the Goy-hol problems if you treat peo-ernment's position at a WHO ple like adults." ministerial conference in Paris: egy for cutting alcohol cousumption in Europe by 25 per

cent by 2000. The Royal College of Physicians said that people would be encouraged to drink more, and there would be an increase in deaths in road accidents and

"social damage in society as a whole". Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the British Medical Association Council, said the advice was "irresponsible and hadly-timed", and the jury was

still out on any health benefits.
Alcohol Concern said the advice should not be taken as a "green light" to drink more. However, Dr John Rae, di-

ust one week after the launch rector of the Portman Group, of Government's Christmas a research group representing drink-driving campaign, seven of the UK's leading drink



manufacturers, welcomed the Government's "brave risk". He f the drinks industry". said: "I think it's right and in the John Bowis, health minister. long run we'll have fewer alco-

> The previous guidance de-21 units a week for men (equates to three units a day) and 14 units a week (two units a day) for women. One unit is equivalent to half a pint of beer, a small glass of wine or a

a weekly figure, it represents an increase of 33 per cent. Mr Dorrell dismissed claims

that he was issuing a boozer's charter and said that people had a right to know the latest findings. The advice is based on a study by an inter-departmental working group which considered evidence from almost 90 expert sources.

The report concludes that there is strong evidence that one or two units daily can reduce deaths from coronary heart dis-ease in men over 40 and postmenopausal women. There is no evidence so far of a protective effect in younger drinkers.

Mr Dorrell said: "Alcohol consumption will always be a major public health issue and it is important for the Government to present a halanced view which recognises the risks hut also offers soundly hased and credible advice on which people can base their own choices.

He said the "most significant" change in the advice was the shift to a "daily benchmark" rather than a weekly amount. Situations in which people should not drink - at work, when driving, using machinery or electrical equipment - remained the same. "The best level here is none." Mr Dorrell said.

Dr Kenneth Calman, chief medical officer, denied that the new "limits" undermined the advice that GPs give to patients, based on the guidance of which aims to develop a strat- fined sensible drinking limits as the Royal Medical Colleges and the BMA. However, his answer to questions at a press conference did little to clarify the issue. "If you drink up to three units a day, there is no adverse affect. If you drink consistent-



Flying free: Captain Frédéric Chiffot (right), and Lieutenant José Snuvignet after their release by Bosnian Serbs

Joy in France as pilots are released

MARY DEJEVSKY

The two French pilots missing for three months after their plane was shot down over the were released yesterday after a flurry of last-minute negotiations, just two days before France hosts the signing of the Bosnian peace agreement.

The pilots, Captain Frédéric Chiffot and Lieutenant José Souvignet, were handed over to the chief of staff of the French armed forces, at a short ceremony in Zvornik on the border of Bosnia and Serbia.

They were flown immediatepuh measure of spirits. If the hy four units a day, you face an hy back to Paris, where they were new guidance is translated into increasing health risk, be said.

wives and a joyous President published in the magazine Paris Russian military attache in Bel-Jacques Chirac.

The fate of the pilots had become a major preoccupation of the French authorities in recent weeks: Mr Chirac last week Bosnian Serh enclave of Pale threatened unspecified consequences if the pilots were not released, while the foreign minister. Hervé de Charctte, made clear during the London conference at the weekend that the whole peace process could be

in danger. Yesterday the Prime Minster, Alain Juppé, said that their release had been due in large measure to the personal "involvement and tenacity" of the French president.

Since photographs of the two taken after their capture were Russia's mediating role, and the

Match in September, there had been no reliable information. about their whereabouts and there was speculation that they were dead or badly injured. Yesterday Lt Souvignet said

that they had been well treated, but that they had been held separately for their first six weeks in captivity. From the air base near Nancy Captain Chiffot's wife, Isabelle, said that there was a veritable explosion of joy in the hearts of their families and at the base", when news came of their release: "it's an ex-

traordinary day."
Both Mr Chirae and the Bosnian Serb commander. Ratko Mladie, paid tribute to

handled by a former secret service officer, Jean-Charles Marchiani, who negotiated the release of French hostages in Lebanon and during the hijack of a French airliner at Marseilles lasi Christmas. While French politicians lav-

grade. Viktor Shipilov, attend-

ed the handover ceremony

vesterday. On the French side

the delicate negotiations were

ished praise on Mr Chirac for obtaining the release of the pilots, questions were already being asked about the terms of a possible deal.

Two weeks ago the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadaic, had said that the release of the pilots could be speeded up

the safety of Serbs remaining in Sarajevo, Yesterday, the Elysee said that there had been "no negotiations with anyone" and that France had "only put pressure on the Serbian leader. Slobodan Milosevic.

There was speculation, however, that Mr Karadzie and Mr Mladie might have demanded a softening of the war crimes indictment pending against them in return for the pilots' release. And amid the widespread international rejoicing, there was bitterness among Serbs, with Bosnian Serb radio lamenting that "two pilots who bombed us" were "gloriously liberated because France requested it".

Pilots' stury, page 9

Branson: Sue me over bribes claim

Westminster Correspondent

Peter Davis, the Oflot regulator, came under strong political pressure last night over his alleged failure 10 act over Richard Branson's bribery allegations and his acceptance of free flights from a partner in the

Camelot consortium.

Mr Branson, head of the Virgin group, yesterday re-peated claims that Guy Snowden, the head of OTECH. which has a 22 per cent stake in Camelot, had tried to bribe him at his home in September

1993. He claimed Mr Davis had been told of the approach but

had chosen to ignore it.

In the face of denials by Mr Davis and Mr Snowden, Mr Branson, currently in Japan, challenged them to sue him. He said he would be writing to Mr Davis with accounts of their meeting at the offices of Oflot in May 1994, from himself and two colleagues, John Jackson and Gerard Tyrrell

Meanwhile, Labour joined the fray, when Jack Cunningham, the party's national heritage spokesman, said Mr Davis had put his position "in question" by accepting the free flights. Dr Cunningham called for a Government statement on the controversy from Virginia

Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage. Both Mr Jackson and Mr

preference to Virgin.

Tyrrell said yesterday their memory of the meeting tallied with Mr Branson's. Mr Tyrrell is understood to have taken a note of the conversation which took place before a formal discussion about the award of the National Lottery to Camelot in

The Oflot head was consulting Government solicitors about suing Mr Branson. "Any suggestion Richard Branson mentioned any allegations of impropriety concerning Guy Snowden to Peter Davis is absolutely untrue," said an Oflot spokeswoman. She said no formal complaint of impropriety had been made and if it was, it

would be investigated.

Mr Branson was at pains to explain why he did not raise the allegations earlier, inbetween apparently telling Mr Davis However, their account was and informing a team from strongly denied by Mr Davis. BBC's Panorama, which broad-

cast them on Monday. He claimed it was because nobody had raised GTECH or Mr Snowden with him before and when Panorama did he reached for the notes of his meeting in September 1993.

In fact, he did raise them, with another journalist, a short time after the Branson-Snowden meeting. Tun Jackson, who wrote an unauthorised biography of Mr Branson, is understood to have received a detailed account of the meeting but was unable to confirm it.

GTECH's public relations adviser, shortly after Mr Snowden is said to have made his offer. According to Mr Branson and Will Whitehorn, his own PR adviser, who heard the call on a speaker phone. Sir Tim said he understood Mr Snowden had said things he might regret. They say Sir Tim asked if Mr Branson planned to relay Mr Snowden's offer to the press.

That account was hotly disputed by Sir Tim who said he called Mr Branson about something else arising from the meeting with Mr Snowden. Meanwhile, attention fo-cused on a telephone call to Mr

IN BRIEF Redwood challenge John Redwood issued a fresh

challenge to the Prime Minis-ter over Europe. Page 8 Conveyancing row

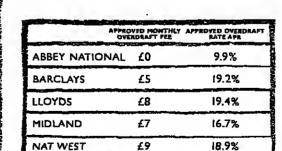
The Law Society faces a stormy meeting tomorrow when thousands of solicitors try to ban cutprice conveyancing. Page 7

England's tough draw England will meet Italy, Poland. Georgia and Moldova in the qualifying competition for the 1998 World Cup.

Today's weather

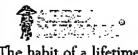
Generally cloudy, with the best of any sunshine in the West and Scotland. Section 2, page 21





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An open letter to St George's pupils

As midnight tolled last Friday, your head teacher, and my husband, lost his fight for life. Your sweet letters to me recognise that, in that moment, the world was deprived of a man of great strength, tendemess and

profound understanding.
You tell me how he gave you pride in your school and, even more importantly, in yourselves. You speak of his friendliness

At home, he would share with me and our children his delight in your daily progress and his conviction that each one of you is a fine human being who has the potential to achieve

great things. I share that conviction. Through your toving letters, I can see how much you care about other people. I can see that you understand the difference between right and wrong and your belief that love should always overcome hatred.

Your head teacher's - my husband's - death will not be in vain if you grow up with these ideals noted firmly in your hearts. I have heard so much about you all. I have found great comfort in your letters and comments. I should like to visit you

Violence is not a knife in the hand. It grows, like a poison tree, inside people who, unlike yourselves, have not learned to value other human beings.

Now, I trust you to work as hard as you can, in school and at home, to create a world in which goodness is never again destroyed by evil.

Francis LANGING

Love must triumph over hate, says head's widow

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

The widow of Philip Lawrence, the headmaster who was stabbed to death outside his school, yesterday wrote to her husband's pupils saying that his death would not be in vain if they learnt that "love should always overcome hatred".

Frances Lawrence, whose letter was read to the pupils over the school lannoy system, added that she hoped the murder would be a life-long lesson for the youngsters showing the difference between right and

It was her first public state-



wanderful letter': Philip

section

TWO

tact police. Scotland Yard has denounced reports that the murder team is on the verge of making arrests. Jack Straw, shadow Home Secretary, has written to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, offering Labour support in any curb on knives. He

called for tougher jail sentences for the illegal carrying of knives and urged a change in the law Pupil violence, page 2 |

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8 23 3 ●

Lawrence's widow Frances man Catholic School, Maida Vale, west London, lan Hamermurdered on Friday, while protecting a pupil from a gang of youths outside St George's Ro
was auministration manager at to put the onus on anyone with a knife to prove they had it for a wonderful letter and highly appropriate."

to put the onus on anyone with a knife to prove they had it for a legitimate purpose.

For the second day children arrived for school with flowers in memory of Mr Lawrence, a 48-year-old father of four. Det Supt Brian Edwards. leading the inquiry, appealed to the family, relatives and friends of the youths involved to con-

news

New setback for rail franchise plans

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR and STEPHEN GOODWIN

The fate of the Government's rail franchise plans is hanging in the balance after three Court of Appeal judges unexpectedly decided to postpone their decision on an attempt by campaigners to declare the process unlawful.

Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, sitting with Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Otton, had said on Monday that they would rule on the case hrought by the Save our Rail-

CHRIS BLACKHURST

Westminster Correspondent

The six men in the room nodded politely to each other. Four

of them stood at nne end, chat-

ting and waiting for the meet-

ing to begin. Two sat at the table,

going through their papers.
One, Richard Branson, had

been hrooding for 48 hours about what he was going to say.

No sooner - by his account and

those of his two colleagues -

had he greeted Peter Davis, the

director general of Oflot, the

lottery regulator, than he

How could a committee

headed by Mr Davis have sanc-

tioned awarding the lottery to Camelot? Mr Branson argued that one of Camelot's share-

holders and the company that

would be running the game on

behalf of the consortium,

GTECH, had been pilloried in

the press for its handling of lot-

Mr Branson retold his own

experience of dealing with

them, when Guy Snowden, the

GTECH co-chairman, had

made him a bizarre offer - which

Mr Davis, according to the

Branson version, launched into

a strong defence of GTECH,

saying the American firm had

been looked at by Interpol and

Davis made clear his lack of in-

tention to rake over the Amer-

ican company's antecedents

and Mr Branson and his two

colleagues, John Jackson and Gerard Tyrrell, sat down. The

formal discussion began into

why, two days previously, Mr Branson's Lottery Foundation

hid had proved unsuccessful.

Oflot's headquarters in Hay-

market, London, Eight months

previously, over on the other

side of town, in the very differ-

ent surroundings of Mr Bran-

lhat was in May 1994 at

It was all over in seconds. Mr

given a clear bill of health.

he believed was a hribe.

teries in America.

dropped the bombshell.

ways campaign yesterday, but instead they announced a further delay of their decision un-

The postponement, which the judges said was because they felt it would wrong to be "stampeded" into judgment "when none of us feel ready to do so", forced the Government to cancel yesterday's planned announcement of the winners of the first two franchises.

The cost of rail privatisation again provoked sharp exchanges in the Commons between the Prime Minister and

Lunch left Branson

with indigestion

another meeting had taken

hility of running a non-profit-making draw, Mr Branson and Mr Jackson, his hid co-ordina-

tor, had suggested a lunchtime meeting with Mr Snowden of GTECH, the world's higgest

The company was not alone

other companies, like IBM and

ICL, had been contacted to see

what they could bring to the

suspicion by Branson camp

knew, was committed to the

Camelot consortium, but he

made his pitch anyway: would

GTECH be interested in join-

ing him? Snowden could not see

what was in It for GTECH and,

besides, it was already tied to

Camelot. The only way GTECH could help Mr Bran-

son would be if he joined the

It was then, according to the

Branson-Jackson account, that

Mr Snowden made his play.

Over the sweet course, he said:

"Well, I don't know how to

phrase this, Richard. There is al-

ways a bottom line. In what way

can I help you, Richard? I'm sure

Mr Branson did not ask him

everybody needs something."

Camelot consortium.

GTECH, as Mr Branson

specialist lottery nperator.

Keen to explore the possi-

headquarters in Holland Park, but soon after, left the rom,

Tony Blair, the Labour leader. senger services on South West Trains and LTS (London, peated demands by Mr Blair to Tilhury and Southend) Rail know whether the public subsidy to the railways was set to rise dramatically after privatisation, and what was the latest official estimate. But he accused the Labour leader of trying to

"smear" the sale when every

went up the stairs to the toilet, and made a hasty note of what

had just been said. Soon after Mr Branson re-

turned, the lunch ended and Mr

gorically denies having offered Mr Branson a hribe. Later that

afternoon - two days later, ac-

cording to the other side, al-though the lunch had been on

a Friday and Mr Branson would

not have been in London on a

Sunday-Sir Tim Bell, the pub-

lic relations guru, called.

Appointed by British Airways

to deal with the media fall-out

from the airline's dirty tricks

campaign against Virgin, he

was viewed with deep suspicion in the Branson camp. Intrigued as to what he wanted – and anx-

ious that Will Whitehorn, his

own PR man, should bear wit-

ness -Branson put his phone on

Mr Branson and Mr White-

horn say Sir Tim did not beat

about the hush. He said he act-

ed for GTECH and was fol-

lowing up on the hunch meeting.

He had heard it had not gone

well and he was concerned Mr

Snowden may have said unfor-

tunate things he might regret.

According to Mr Branson and

Mr Whitehorn, Sir Tim asked:

"Are you going to be saying any-

Mr Branson's reply, they claim, was succinct: "What's the point? I'm going to hid for the

The Bell version is different.

There was a phone call follow-

ing Mr Snowden's lunch. It was

at Mr Snowden's request, to tell

Mr Branson his approach to

GTECH would be put to the

Camelot board. Did Sir Tim say

Mr Branson is itching for a

those words? "Absolutely not."

writ, challenging Mr Davis,

GTECH, Mr Snowden and Sir

Tim to sue him. If they do, a

great public battle binging on his

word and those of his team

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the speaker.

thing about it?"

previous privatisation had been a success. "Rail privatisation will produce a better service for all passengers. If Mr Blair waits for the new franchise decisions he will begin to see that himself." The first franchises for pas-

were due to be announced yesterday; and Jeremy Sullivan QC, for Roger Salmon, the director of rail franchising, asked if the signing ceremonies could go ahead.

He said he would make an undertaking to the court to adjust the franchise as necessary to ohey the eventual judgment, but Sir Thomas Bingham said signing of the contracts should await the judicial outcome. The Secretary of Save Our

the fact that the "very senior judges" of the Court of Appeal were taking the issue seriously enough to grant a stay of the franchise signing to give themselves more time to consider. "We are very pleased the judges ordered the franchise director not to go ahead with any sign-ing until the judgment," he said.

Although the Government which has already missed its franchising targets several times -will be anxious to sign the first two or three away before Christmas, whoever loses this

Yesterday, the Independent are on the timetable. learnt that Chiltern Railways, which should have been ready for tenders before Christmas, is also now delayed because Mr Salmon failed to consult widely enough with rail operators in the Midlands. The franchise will not be offered until next month at the earliest.

The case centres on the fact that Mr Salmon - in drawing up his "passengers service re-

case is likely to appeal to the House of Lords, causing further delays.

service level to be provided by franchise operators – left out large numbers of trains which

Mr Justice Macpherson had ruled in the High Court that Mr Salmon did not act "perversely, irrationally or unfairly" and nissed the case, but the Appeal judges listened much more sympathetically to the Save Our Railways' case.

Should the case eventually be won by the campaigners, it is likely that the Government will have to start the whole franchising process again.

mer Tory whip and MP for Staffordshire South-East, died yesterday of a heart attack

which struck while he was watching the Varsity rugby match at Twickenham. He was His death cuts the government's majority to five, but his seat is eminently winnable by Labour, which would take the majority down to three, assuming Labour holds.

Hemsworth, the Yorkshire seat currently vacant after the death last month of Derek Enright. Sir David had a majority of 7.192 over Labour at the last election, vulnerable to a 6.3 percent swing. The Liberal Democrats trailed a poor third, with just under 10 per cent of the vote in 1992.

IN BRIEF

MP's death cuts Tory majority to 5 Sir David Lightbown, the for-

Hospital inquiry

Police have dropped an investigation into a possible copycat crune at the hospital where the killer muse Beverage Allit mandered four childrent But senior officials at Grantham and District General Hospital Lines said they would easily out their own investogation after an incident earlier this year when an 83-year-old patient received an insulin overdose.

Live calves ruling

The RSPCA, Congression of World Farming and the letternational Fundation Animal Welfare succeeding baving a judicial review and make the calf export rules for resid to the Enropean Court of Justice. They claim that agriculture minister, Douglas Hogg has the legal powers to ban calf exports to Europe. The ground wanted the European Court of Justice to decide on the issue. Justice to decide on the issue and the High Court in London agreed to a referral to Luxem-

School challenge

Pupils and parents at Hackney Downs School, the first to be recommended for closure by a Government-appointed "hit squad", failed in a High Court bid to win a last-minute re-prieve. But they were given leave to appeal and the case is expected to be heard before in day - the last day of tening the effective closure date leaving pupils unclear as to where they will be selected at ter Christmas de 1

Noise fines

Noisy neighbours face a £40 on the spot fixed penalty if they refuse to comply with warnings. to tone down night time nuisance, under tough measures announced by the Governmen. The creation of a new nighttime noise offence - between 11pm and 7am, is part of a pack-, age designed to tackle and clarways of dealing with the problem of noise in towns and cities. Under the new offence noise such as from a ghetto se... hlaster, discotheque or live band or machinery - would? have to exceed 35 decibels and the background level by at least 10 decibels when measured in a complainant's house, before action is taken.

way. If Government decides to purchase it compulsarily, then the trust has a special right to put the matter hefore both houses of Parliament.

Lottery bribes row: Millionaire tells of meeting with GTECH boss and how he shared concern with Offot Man who has pride in being boring **Chris Blackhurst** finds an unlikely target for trouble Peter Davis who, in his own words, prides himself on being 'a middle-aged accountant, ultimately very boring and re-spectable", must find the current furore his worst nightmare. Aged 54, this quiet figure is the epitome of respectability and safety. A partnership at Price Waterhouse by 32 was fol-lowed by a spell with the Harris Queensway carpet group, a management post with Sturge, the insurance company, and the post of deputy chairman of Abbey National. By the time headbunters searching for a safe pair of hands to oversee the running of the lottery came calling, he was, unusually, out of work. Director general of Oflot was a job he wanted. He has offered this description of why he was picked: "If you look at Peter Davis, you could say he has skills in banking, retailing

and finance. I think I am a careful, cautious chap who has an Cial side of the connecting, the little of the connection of the c

that he was ill-advised to have taken the flights. Mr Davis said he had taken advice and, without the GTECH jet, the trip, to visit lotteries in the US, "would have taken a great deal longer and would have cost the tax-

payer a great deal more". But this, from Alan Williams MP, must have stung: "The imnocent abroad when it comes to dealing with US gambling operations. You are left flourdering and out of your depth." When it comes, the PAC report



Quiet man: Peter Davis is the epitome of respectability

Photograph: David Rose may end a very British career.

Asda attacked

son's family home cum business what, exactly, he had in mind against theirs, is promised. **Exclusive Sony** Christmas Offer.

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Record rise in pupil violence

A record rise in pupil violence against teachers and other children was revealed yesterday in

The National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers published figures showing that serious attacks on teachers are up by 37 per cent on last year.

Many attacks are by pupils who have been excluded from school by headteachers for violence and who are returned

after appealing, says the survey. One Sheffield pupil whn had peen permanently excluded for threatening a teacher with a knife was reinstated by governnrs. In a Birmingham school teachers and pupils were regu-larly attacked by a five-year-old,

There were 51 violent incidents, mainly attacks on teachers, compared with 37 last year, says the NASUWI The previous highest figure was 50 as-

saults in 1987. The figures include only the most serious cases in which the union has been asked to intervene. Most incidents are dealt

with by individual schools. -Nigel de Gruchy, the union's general secretary, said: "These figures are only the tip of a very

large iceberg of indiscipline.

The worst aspect is the number of children who have been returned to their schools on appeal after being excluded by school heads and governors. It is time for teachers to be supported in their efforts to teach the majnrity of children who want to learn without fear of

as 'Scrooge' BARRIE CLEMENT

Asda stores chief Archie Norman was hranded a "Scrooge" yesterday after withdrawing Christmas bonuses from women who have taken mater-

As part of a crackdown on absenteeism, management is reducing or withdrawing the festive pay-out to anyone who has taken time off within the last six months.

The company has made no exception for pregnant women and could now be taken to court for sex discrimination by the GMB general union. The fact that fathers who have taken paternity leave could also lose their bonus, will prove no defence to any lawsuit, employees' representatives argue.

Donna Covey, national offi-cer for the GMB general union at the stores group, predicted that the company would tomorrow report a 20 per cent increase in half-yearly profits and said it was the worst case of "penny-pinching" she had seen. Management grants a £20

Asda voucher to staff who work more than 15 hours a week and £10 to those who work less than 15 hours. Employees will not be paid the bonus if they have an absence rate within the last six months of 3.4 per cent - approximately four days on a 37.5 hour shift. Those with an absence rate between 0.1 and 3.3 per cent will lose half the

Ms Covey said: "Asda are hugely profitable and can easily afford to give all their staff the £20 vouchers.

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Town Hall chaos as Church sticks to his guns

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES Political Correspondent

Walsall Council leader "Citizen" Dave Church and 14 fellow left-wing activists were effectively expelled by Labour yesterday for setting up a "party within a party",

The move comes less than a mouth after Mr Church, his deputy, John Rothery and the former council leader, Brian Powell, were suspended from the party by its national executive committee, pending an investigation by John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, into claims that they were operating within a splinter organisation, the Walsall Socialist Group.

The row leaves the West Midlands council with two competing Labour factions - and the future governance of the district in disarray and uncertainty. Labour's action - subject to ratification by the National Constitutional Committee but

a virtual foregone conclusion came after a defiant Mr Church, supported by Mr Rothery and 13 other councillors, insisted at a council meeting on Monday night that he remained council leader, with Mr Rothery his deputy, despite the suspensions. The chaotic turn of events

comes after an unrepentant Mr Church vowed he would not "go quietly" after being sus-

pended. "The people of Walsall voted me in and this is where I will stay until they vote me out again," Mr Church declared after the meeting.

Of his controversial "power to the people" decentralisation drive, he said: "If the national party is worried that trying to introduce more democracy in Walsall is embarrassing, that's up to them.

A furious Labour HQ swiftly invoked section 2A.4(b) of the Labour Party rules, the proviaton used to expel members of the Walsall Socialist Group we Militant and other entryist groups, which says: "A member of the party who joins and/or supports a political organisation in a party were absolutely ac-

group or other unit of the party shall automatically be ineligible to be or remain a party

A spokesman claimed the group had effectively "expelled themselves" by their actions. They would be prevented from re-applying for membership for at least five years. Ray Parrell, a moderate, was

elected by the official Labour group as council leader last week; in place of Mr Church. A Labour spokesman said: "In are dealing with a Militant-style organisation. The earlier allegations about a party withother than an official Labour curate and well-founded."

The spokesman went on to castigate Tory and Liberal Democrat councillors for failing to support moves by the official Labour group to to install new chairmen in place of Walsali Socialist Group members who bad resigned. Five of six Liberal. Democrats voted with the Walsall Socialist Group. None of the chairmanships was settled. Mr Rothery described Labour's likening of the group to Militant as "total nonsense; it's justcompletely untrue."He said Labour's move had given con-

trol to the Tories because the of-

with 20 Conservatives.

ficial Labour group had been cut to 19 councillors, compared

Rapist 'may have struck 100 times'

Crime Correspondent

offender who stalked his victims buggery, three indecent asas they walked home late at saults false imprisonment, and night was given live life sen tences yesterday for "ferocious". attacks on eight women.

Police believe up to another 100 women were also attacked by Victor Willoughby, 30, but have not reported the crimes. Yesterday they appealed for them to come forward.

The Old Bailey was told that Willoughby began targeting his victims in London two months. A DNA sample was used to

after he was released from jail convict the rapist, who had dealing with the tip of the ice-kowing a night bus in a stolen car Two were in court yesterday to eight years for rohbery and for a previous sex attack. He denied all the charges.

Showed to a manufacture of the ice-kowing a night bus in a stolen car Two were in court yesterday to eight years for rohbery and 12 showed to a manufacture of the ice-kowing a night bus in a stolen car Two were in court yesterday to eight years for rohbery and 12 showed to a manufacture of the ice-kowing a night bus in a stolen car Two were in court yesterday to eight years for rohbery and 12 showed to a manufacture of the ice-kowing a night bus in a stolen car Two were in court yesterday to eight years for rohbery and 12 showed to a manufacture of the ice-kowing a night bus in a stolen car Two were in court yesterday to eight years for rohbery and 12 showed to a manufacture of the ice-kowing a night bus in a stolen car Two were in court yesterday to eight years for rohbery and 12 showed to a manufacture of the ice-kowing a night bus in a stolen car Two were in court yesterday to eight years for rohbery and 12 showed to a manufacture of the ice-kowing a night bus in a stolen car Two were in court yesterday to eight years for rohbery and 12 showed to a manufacture of the ice-kowing a m for a previous sex attack. He showed no emotion as the jury A serial rapist and convicted sex convicted him of four rapes, robbery.

The eight women, aged between 16 and 47, were subjected to sexual assaults around Willesden, north-west London, over a 12-month period. Willoughby, of Tottenham, north London, stalked night buses and scoured streets in his search for victims. All the women were on

their way home after a night out.

most appalling ferocity". The protection of the com-

monity and particularly of women requires that I pass an indeterminate sentence." Detective Superintendent Duncan MacRae, who led the investigation, speaking after the trial, said: "Our inquiry tells us there are many more vic-

tims out there. Certainly he is

the most prolific rapist to be

caught using DNA. We are

He said Willoughby was the most dangerous serial sex nffender he had ever come across. The police yesterday appealed to women who had not yet reported attacks to contact their lpline nn 0181 733 3842.

Willoughby was trapped by a police surveillance operation, codenamed Pandora, in which plain clothes officers followed night buses. In October last year the rapist, who always wore a hood or mask, was seen fol-

hair matched semen found after several of the attacks. Willoughby had previously been sentenced to eight years in 1986 for attempting to rape a woman walking home from a night hus. On his release in 1992, he wounded a man in a

street attack and was sent back

to prison for 12 months. Released in August 1993, he began stalking and attacking his current victims within weeks.

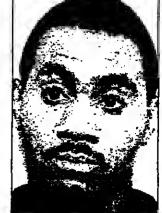
In one attack he pretended he was a minicah driver and DNA tests on a sample of his then raped the woman in the car. Another he knocked out before driving her to a garage where he raped her.

In some attacks he hid behind hushes and pounced on his victims from behind, dragging them into alleyways and, on one occasion, into a churchyard.

He received life sentences for each of the rapes and the huggery. He was jailed for 10 years for the indecent assaults, 10 years for false imprisonment, months for dangerous driving all to run concurrently.

Two of his victims - both students - joined the police appeal for other women attacked by Willonghby to come forward.

One victim, aged 22, said the attack had changed her life and made her so angry she was determined to go through with the court case. "It has made me a lot more nervous about going out. It has made me rethink everything I do - like walking down the street, going out at night, everything." she said.



Victor Willoughby: Given

New drink guidelines Doctors and anti-alcohol campaigners have united to oppose Government recommendations on intake



Toasting their health: Lunchtime drinkers in central London after yesterday's controversial advice on alcohol intake Photograph: Dillon Bryden

Bemused indifference from Britain's drinking classes

DECCA ATKENHEAD

Notice fines.

The decision to raise the recommended safe fimits met with bemused indifference among drinkers in London's West End yesterday hinchitime. The new 40, a graphic designer, enjoying guidance was widely dismissed as laughable, and irrelevant to "Why on earth should we trust yesterday hinchtime. The new

people's drinking habits.
"I've never paid any attention to it before, and I won't start pulled out of a hat because they now," scoffed Nicky Jones, a civil servant, enjoying a pint of beer in The Salisbury, in Covent

"On average I suppose I drink about four pints of bitter a day, if not more

Those official limits are for Children should be allowed to other people - they're certain-

At the nearby Lamb and Flag, another middle-aged female drinker was equally robust. involved drunk adolescents.

"I wish they'd even it up beLabour's consumer affairs
tween men and women. Then spokesman, Nigel Griffiths, I might pay some attention called for a change in the law
"I think it's crap to say that to allow trading standards

how much I drink - they just af ue in them, and I don't expect feet what I tell my doctor I there is in the new ones either." Others were sceptical of the water, 20, said: "You may have

credentials of the new recom- the recommended figure somethe new figures, when they've admitted that the old ones were were easily divided by the days of the week?

better not have any more'. On average, he said, he drinks a couple of pints a day, plus six or more on a Friday and Saturday night. "Safe levels for health don't worry me. The "There was no scientific val-

Child 'traps' proposed

pose as customers to trap offly not for me. I enjoy my drink licences selling alcohol to under-and nobody's going to dictate to me what I should or shouldn't day. The call came as a leading do," she said. of four emergencies she had encountered at one stage

men can drink more than officers and police to work with women. The levels don't affect children to make "test"

purchases of alcohol. The law allows children, under supervision, 10 buy cigarettes, adult videos and fireworks. However, it is illegal for children to buy alcohol, so test purchases can not be made, as the children would also be guilty.

Mr Griffiths said he wanted

the 1988 Licensing Act to be amended. "Test purchases are an effective and proven deter-Home Office ministers are

One colleague, Keith Freshmore, and now I don't seem where in the back of your head, but you certainly don't ever go out thinking 'Oob, I've had this many units this week, I'd

thing that worries me more is that I used to be able to drink

Hangovers, driving and cost were all cited as more effective deterrents than health worries Natasha Longworth, 19, a stu-dent who admits to drinking well over the old recommended levels, said: "What you think about when you drink is how you are going to feel the next

morning - that's all."
Paul Webster, a businessmen in his 40s, accused the Government of had timing. "Why are they encouraging people to drink a bit more at exactly the same time as they are running a campaign against drink-dri-

ving?" he asked.
As the lunchtime trade departed, retired seaman Peter Barnes was still standing at the

He is there every day, he says, from "midday till, we'll, let's say teatime". And he admitted: "I can't honestly say I've never heard about any of these levels. home each day is the bloody price of a pint."

The unit and you explained

A unit of alcohol is 8 grams: the amount contained in half a pint of ordinary beer or lager, or in a small glass of wine or in a standard measure of spirits.

As much or as little as you want. However, new advice of from the Government is that regular consumption of between three and four units a day by men of all age - and two and three units

significant health risk. Men who drink consistently four or more units a day (3 or more units for women) are warned of the progressive episodes and may mask heavy health risk associated with its binges, ministers say.

three units a day - and 14 units a week by women - 2 units a day - is unlikely to damage health.

QWhy is the Government switching to daily guide lines?

.. The Government says that a recommended daily alcohol limit is a more useful aid to drinkers monitoring their intake, than a weekly total.

It argues that it will help peoby women - does not present a ple avoid drunkenness by encouraging them to plan how much to drink on a social occasion. The weekly limit hears little relation to single drinking

Qhow do the new guide-Qence I use up most of lines compare with ex-isting advice?

sible drinking advice is that pact of binge drinking violence, drinking less than 21 units a depression, suicidal behaviour, week by men-which equates to the increased risk of accidents - the health benefits of alcohol is more evident with regular daily drinking.

In fact the benefits may he lost altogether - and the health risks exacerbated - by irregular heavy drinking episodes.

QWhat is the evidence that drinking is A. harmful; B. beneficial

A: In the short term alcohol is implicated in many accidents at home and on the road; in violent crime, domestic violence child neglect and abuse.

In the long term heavy consumption of alcohol is linked with both cirrhosis and cancer of the liver. There are also reports of an association between alcohol and cancer of the stomach, colon, rectum, lung and pancreas, although a causal link has been ruled ont. There

cancer. High blood pressure with associated risk of heart attack or stroke - may result from regular drinking and hinge drinking in particular. In pregnant women, alcohol

can induce abortion, impaired foetal growth, facial and other physical defects, and impaired physical and mental development in childhood. It may also effect fertility in both sexes. .Heavy drinking also has a major impact on mental health, being strongly related to depression and suicide, while 25

B. Many studies show that light to moderate consumption of alcobol - as little as one unit a day protects against coronary heart disease, ischaemic stroke, and cholesterol gallstones. The evidence to date suggests that the beneficial effects on the

units or more a day long term

results in brain damage.

Advice is out of step with medical opinion

LIZ HUNT Health Editor

Government recommendations on alcohol intake have been subject to revision before, but yesterday's announcement is the first time such advice has been so out of kilter with the opinion of the Royal medical colleges, the British Medical Association and anti-drink cam-

The medical establishment had suspected that such moves were afoot and had taken action to persuade the Government to think again, with a number of influential reports this year.

In April, the BMA published Alcohol: Guidelines on Sensible Drinking, compiled by its Board of Science and Education. which concluded that: "The current limits of 21 units per week for men and 14 for women, should be main-

A joint report from the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Royal College of General Practitioners in June urged the Government not to raise current safe drinking limits.

At a press conference to launch Alcohol and the Hean in Perspective: Sensible Limits Reaffirmed, senior doctors warned against the powerful influence of the drinks lobby which was pushing the message that alco-

hol is good for health, and lobbying ministers for a relaxation on limits. Professor Sir Leslie Turnberg, president of the Royal College of Physicians, said the Colleges were "absolutely opposed to raising the limits.

Just last month, the Royal Cullege of Physicians and the British Paediatric Association warned that the drinks industry was targeting young people with a new range of alcoholic lemonades and colas. Alcohol and Young People concluded that alcohol was at least as great a threat as illegal drugs to child health.

Prior to this, doctors and the Department of Health had worked in harmony to establish the message of safe or low risk drinking limits. This concept did not appear until 1984 when the then Health Education Council issued its pamphlet, "That's the limit." This defined the amounts of alcohol, well within "safe limits," which people were advised to limit their drinking. For men it was 18 "standard drinks" (equivalent to units) a week and 9 for women. "Too much" was defined as 56 a week for men and 35 for

In the 1987 edition of the leaflet, the sensible limit - defined in units for the first time as the limits above which health risks could accrue - were set at 21 units a week for men and 14

units a week for women. These were endursed by the Royal Colleges, and officially adopted by the Government in the Lord President's Report on Alcohol Misuse in 1991. They were used to set targets in The Health of the Nation for reduc-

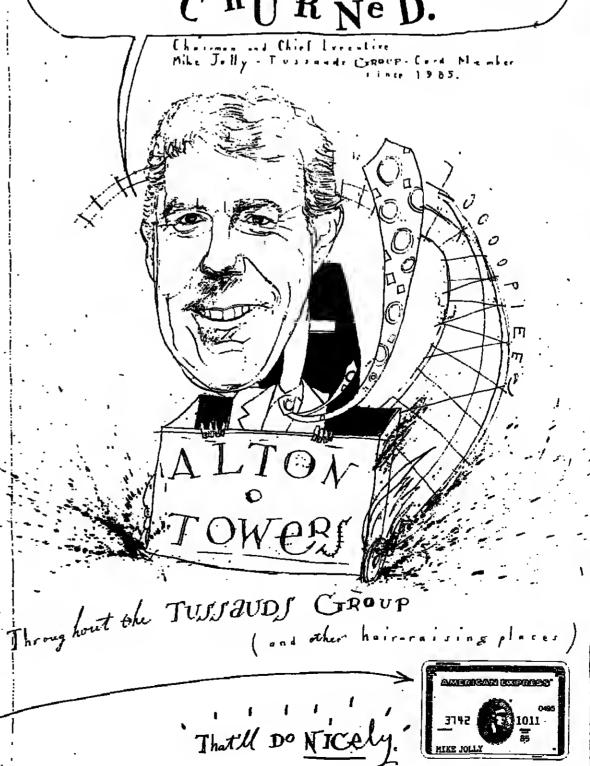
ing alcohol misuse in 1992.

However, throughout the late 1980s and early 1990s studies were being reported which suggested that moderate alcohol consumption had a protective effect on the heart. This led to doubts about the possibly restrictive nature of the guidelines - especially as some countries with low rates of heart disease, such as France, had a much higher alcohol intake overall - and widespread confusion on the "to drink or not drink" issue. In 1994, the Government set up its inter-de-

reported yesterday to review the current sensible drinking limits. Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, dismissed suggestions that publication of the report, less than two weeks hefore Christmas, had any sinister motive. However, leading doctors who have been repeatedly issued warnings of the insidious influence of the drink manufacturers, insisted that the timing was calculated to instil a false sense of security in peo-

partmental working party which

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Row over £10m to tackle teacher shortages

FRAN ABRAMS **Education Correspondent**

Inceotives of £10m are to be offered to attract graduates into teaching amid rising concern that schools could face severe staff shortages in the next five

Some universities are cutting back teacher training places despite a recent baby boom which will mean an extra 87,000 pupils start school next year.

They say they cannot find school placements for studeots who want to teach in shortage subjects such as modern languages and science.

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, wants the colleges to recruit an extra 11,000 trainee teachers in the oext five years. But the colleges say they are already struggling to fill their places and applications have dropped by 10 per cent in the past year.

Teachers and training insti-tutions say the joh is becoming less attractive rather than more so. More teachers oow retire early than at retirement age, with many forced to leave because of ill-health or stress. Last month, Mrs Shephard wrote to the teachers' pay review body warning against a generous salary rise this year.

The Teacher Training Agency, the quango which over-sees the process, has written to

universities to invite hids for a share of the £10m, which had previously been used to offer bursaries to recruits taking less popular subjects.

A spokesman said only 6 per cent of hursary students had been influenced to enter teaching by the incentive. "What we really want now is bold and inoovative ideas that hreak new ground and really address the shurtage areas," he said

was growing concern over possible teacher shortages. A oew high-profile incentive scheme was needed so that potential trainees knew of the bonuses available for choosing teaching.

She said new arrangements under which student teachers spend more time in the classroom were causing problems because placements in subjects Mary Russell, secretary of the like science, which require

Universities' Council for the scarce laboratory space, were viable. "We have tried to bring framing of Teachers, said there hard to find. Universities were it home to the Teacher Training cutting their places rather than risk financial penalties which would result from oot being full. There were also plans to withhold money from colleges if

their trainees failed to get a job, she said, but in many cases this was totally beyond their control. Some courses were likely to be withdrawn because the obstacles being put in their way by

the Government made them un-

Agency that if conditions go on the way they are there could well

be a major supply situation be-fore much longer," she said. The Department for Education said there was no shortage of teachers at present. Primary school quotas were being met and although there were challenging targets for the next five

years these were achievable.

Losses through early retire-

ment were compensated for by extra recruitment, she said.

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, has written to the training agency to point out that targets for recruitment to primary education and for maths and English teachers

have dropped since 1984. "Taked with the drop in specialist teacher training applications, this represents an extremely serious problem for future years." he said.

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Social phobia: Victims find everyday situations impossible to cope with, but ignorance means treatment is too often denied

Deep-rooted fears make prisoners of more than a million

GLENDA COOPER

More than a million people three per cent of the adult population - are suffering from social phobia, but only 10 per cent receive treatment, according to the Royal College of

Psychiatrists.
Social phohia – the fear of scrutiny by others – generally begins in mid-teenage years when it causes a great deal of

A further seven per cent of people avoid certain social situations and 40 per cent consider themselves shy.

Sufferers display a marked and persisteot fear of social or performance situations, which provoke a panic attack, even though they realise the fear is excessive or unreasonable.

Typical fears include being introduced to strangers, eating or drinking in a public place, writing in froot of others or being

Those who suffer from social phobia, or social anxiety disorder, as it is also known, have common symptoms. Seventynine per ceot said they suffered from palpitations, 75 per ceot from trembling and 74 per cent sweating. Other symptoms included a sinking stomach, tense muscles, dry mouth and

In addition, social phobia is

seen as being responsible for the onset of other serious conditions, such as depression, agoraphobia and, most particularly, alcoholism and drug abuse. The logic is that social phohics will drink or take drugs in or-der to muster Dutch courage to socialise, but by doing so they cause more harm to themselves. Suicide attempts are also significantly higher among

social phohics. The causes of social phobia are not known hut may stem hack to childhood. Dr Maicolm Lader, professor of clinical psychopharmocology at the Institute of Psychiatry in Lon-don, said: "Every child is fear-ful of strangers hut usually develops through this by parental example and hiological maturation to hecome a social animal." However, in some children, this does not happen.

"This can be long-term lifetime behaviour which doesn't tend to get better" he added. At present there are two main means of treating social

phobics - either through psy-chology or prescribed drugs. Dr David Clark, of Oxford University, said that if social phobics were given 12 weeks cognitive behaviour therapy, 70 per cent of patients would make a marked improvement, which would be still apparent

The treatment involves the patients facing their fears such as writing a cheque in public if they fear their hands tremhie too much. Conversational

skills are also taught. The other option is drug treatment and so far the most effective treatments have been the use of anti-depressants. Fifty to sixty per cent of patients treated with either mono-amine oxidase inhibitors or reversible inhibitors of mono-amine oxidase showed significant improvement after 16 weeks.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists is launching a free leaflet, Help Is At Hand, which explains treatments and symptoms of social phobia. Dr Lader called for GPs to

be more aware of those suffering from social phobia and for combined drug and psychological treatments to be giveo.
In the US, where the condi-

tion is already treated as an anxiety disorder, studies show that about 1.5 per cent of the US male population and 3 per cent of the US female population will experience symptoms of social phobia during their lives for np to six mooths. A further study found that just over 11 per cent of US men and 15 per cent of US women will have the conditioo permanently. Up to 50 per cent of sufferers in the US



lan Leonard : He hard such a severe panic attack on the Underground that he thought it was cardiac arrest

'Going to a restaurant was terrifying'

"I lived a life of pretence, not allowing people to know I was suffering," Ian Leonard wid, "I wasn't really alive at all." Mr Leonard, now 36, has suffered from social phobia for 14 years.

writes Glenda Cooper.
He started having painic attacks when he was 22, although he had always been shy: "I was one of these people who would sit at the back of the class and

avoid putting my hand up," he said. "If I was asked a question

I'd go to pieces."
At work, as an environmental manager for a coincil, he felt. equally insecure. "I felt I had inadequate social skills and very poor conversation. I'd go to work ... with a dry mouth and a racing heart. I'd imagine peo- my partner was terrifying ... I

ple were looking at me all the

By the time he was 24 his phobia was so bad that he went to a GP, who diagnosed him as suffering from anxiety neurosis. He stayed in work but had difficulty taking oo responsibility; even normal social occasions became fraught.

"Going to a restaurant with

A PC that's

felt everyone was looking at me and when I picked up my knife. and fork my hands started tremhling. I was afraid that if I discussed it with anyone they'd strait-jacket."

1993, when be had such a severe panic attack on the Underground that he thought it was

ever after being diagnosed as clinically depressed and leaving work. At his doctor's surgery he saw a leaflet for a self-help group which he could only bring imself to attend at first with a family member but gradually weot by himself A year on he feels a different person. "I don't believe there's such a thing as a heart attack. Last year he had a cure, only recovery," he said.

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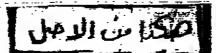




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Elton John case forces rethink of libel awards

STEPHEN WARD

Legal Affairs Correspondent The law of libel was drastically

reformed yesterday, when the Court of Appeal made a landmark ruling that juries should be steered towards much lower awards, by pointing out to them how little money accident

victims get. The Master of the Rolls, Sir Lords Justices Neill and Hirst, made the dramatic change at the end of a judgment which reduced a £350,000 award to the rock star Elton John to £75,000. The case may go to the House of Lords.

Yesterday's ruling will affect all future libel indgements, mcluding cases in progress; coun-sel on both sides of a case and the trial judge can put figures to the jury "to reflect the upper and lower bounds of a realistic bracket*.

Civil cases other than libel are decided by a judge without a jury, and according to tariffs. Until now, judges have only been able to remind jurors to consider in general terms the monetary value of their awards in terms of a dinner out, a car, a holiday or a three-bedroomed house. Five years ago, the law was changed to allow the Court of Appeal to cut high awards.

Yesterday's ruling was predictably welcomed by newspapers and their lawyers, hut criticised by others for removing a check on reckless publication by tabloid newspapers.

Elton John, who once won £1m from the Sun in an out-ofcourt settlement, after it ran an article in which a rent boy made false allegations about his private life, said the judgment was unfair. "I believe that the 12 ordinary people on that jury understand today's economics better than the Court of Appeal," he said.

offensive to public opinion, and rightly so, that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable," he said.

Despite earlier cases in which Thomas Bingham, sitting with the Court of Appeal had cut excessive awards, juries had continued to hand down damages



Elton John: Ruling cuts his damages dramatically

which "bear no relation to the

ordinary values of life". The three judges added that there had been "a series of jury awards in sums wildly disproportionate to any damage conceivably suffered by the plaintiff has given rise to serious and justified criticism of the procedures leading to such awards".

They added that this could not be considered the fault of juries. Without the clear guidelines which will now be issued. "They were in the position of as an artist, they ruled.

In their 59-page ruling, the sheep loosed on an unfenced judges said: "It is, in our view, common, with no shepherd." common, with no shepherd."
Juries should not be reminded of previous libel awards as a benchmark, because all cases were different.

They said: "It serves no public purpose to encourage plaintiffs to regard a successful libel action, risky though the process undouhtedly is, as a road to untaxed riches. Nor is it healthy if any legal process fails to command the respect of lawyer and layman alike, as is regrettably true of the assessment of damages by libel juries."

The judges said that men-tioning figures, far from developing into an "auction", would induce a mood of realism on both sides". It would "buttress the constitutional role of the lihel jury hy rendering their proceedings more rational and so more acceptable to public

The award to Elton John, in November 1993, included £275,000 "exemplary" damages to punish the Sunday Mirror for publishing a totally untrue story that the singer-songwriter was hooked on a bizarre "diet of death" which was a form of the slimmers' disease hulimia.

Jurors accepted his claim that the story was printed recklessly, without regard to the truth, and with the objective of boosting sales of the newspaper for profit.

But payment of the rarelyawarded punitive damages was suspended pending an appeal by Mirror Group Newspapers. The judges held that the total award was "manifestly excessive" and they reduced the exemplary damages to £50,000. They also reduced the £75,000 compensatory award to £25,000. Although the article was false, offensive and distressing, it did not attack the star's personal integrity or damage his reputation



the flat above Dr Kilduff, Mrs

Ashby accused them of having

an affair. "I knew my husband

was taking him to the theatre

and cinema, hecause he told

read out in court. Mrs Ashby ac-

cused him of taking all their be-

longings away from the family

home, including the cutlery,

and was furious Dr Kilduff

could be eating with it. "I will

disinfect every bit of cuttery that

has touched that man's mouth,"

In a letter to her husband

me." Mrs Ashby said.

Tory MP 'paid over odds' for flat

REBECCA FOWLER

David Ashby, the Tory MP, paid over the odds for a flat in south-west London, after he separated from his wife, because he was so keen to live next door to a male friend, according to the woman who sold it to him. Patricia Bridge, the owner of

the Putney flat, was asked by Dr Ciaran Kilduff, who had bought the neighbouring flat, whether she would be interested in selling the second property, which was above his, to Mr Ashby. After Ms Bridge showed Mr Ashby around, they struck a been correct."

deal that he would pay £80,000 for the one-bedroom flat, almost the same price Dr Kilduff had paid a year before, despite the fact Ms Bridge believed the market had declined.

"I had asked more than the going rate, on the basis that two people who were friends would very much want to live next door," Ms Bridge said.

When an article appeared in the press alleging Mr Ashby had left his wife to live close to another man. Ms Bridge believed she had heen right. "My thought was that my gamble had

Sifvana Ashhy, the Italian wife of Mr Ashhy, also continued to give evidence on the 14th day of her hushand's libel case against the Sunday Times and Andrew Neil, the former editor. Mr Ashby denies he is a homosexual.

Mr Ashby and Alex, 27, their daughter, sat together. Richard Hartley QC. for the Sunday Times, requested that Alex should leave the court because her presence upset Mrs Ashby. Ms Ashby, who earlier gave

she heard her mother say: "This

evidence against her mother for

my daughter can't come to terms with it ... I wish she wasn't here now, it only upsets In a colourful exchange with Geoffrey Shaw QC, for Mr

story had a very deep psycho-

logical affect on all of us, and

Ashby, Mrs Ashby accused him of trying to stereotype her as an hysterical Italian with a fiery temper, "Because I'm Italian I'm supposed to go mad every so often.lsn't that what's heing said in this court?" she said. Mrs Ashby claims her hus-

Mr Ashby, did not leave. Instead she heard her mother say: "This mosexual in October 1993... Mrs Ashhy wrote. The case continues.

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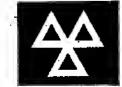
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solicit move cut-

house

news

Fall in capital's growth reduces regional divide

Public Policy Editor

The North-South divide in the United Kingdom is narrowing and is predicted to close further by 2000, according to a report yesterday from the market analysts Mintel. But by then, London will still have an income per head 20 per cent above the national average, with the South-east still enjoying a 10 per cent advantage.

recession in the early part of the decade hit manufacturing and the North, London's wealth advantage over the rest of the country grew. But since 1990, London and the South-east

Greater London Out of home leisure activity

Yorks/NE

Most items needed for good

Broadly the same factors as adults nationally.

Wents more active social life but

not possessions or any specific activity/ownership

Financial security, holidays and drink-related leisure activities

Wide range of items, both in-home and out of home activities

Money, ownership of basic

have taken the brunt of an the financial and service sector hardest, while manufacturing has henefited from export growth. As a result, while they remain the most prosperous parts of the country, the two reis saw growth rates of only gions saw growth rates of only 14.7 and 16.4 per cent in their per capita while every other part of the United Kingdom did

1128

269.56

237.41

sing and fuel costs (1994/5)

Lack of free time.

Average attitudes and

in some cases fewer

Financial womies, lack of transport facilities

Few. Only a lack of

worries than most

transport

Northern Ireland - 230.15

Yorks/North-east 218.57

Throughout the 1980s as the Northern Ireland saw 25 per cent growth, Scotland 22.8 per cent, Yorkshire and the Northeast 20.1 per cent and the North-west 19 per cent. Since 1986, Scotland has done particularly well, its un-

How the regions compare

employment levels now close to economic downturn which hit the national average as its role as a finance and electronics centre has expanded on top of its oil and gas revenues.

While Scotland has much lower rates of home ownership, it is the only region to have seen house prices rise rather than fall during the recession - up 21 per cent against a 24 per cent fall in London.

Angela Hughes, Mintel's consumer research manager, said she expected the North-South divide to continue to close economically, "although I altogether". Mintel's projec-tions are that up to 2000, consumer expenditure will grow by 11.5 per cent from its 1994 figure on average, but London and the South-east will see slower growth of 9.2 and 10.5 per cent.

Despite the closing of the gap, however, marked regional disparities in lifestyle re-main. The image of the "canny Scot" holds up - Scots saving 15 per cent of their disposable income, against a United Kingdom average of 10 per cent London and the South-east save far less - 6 to 7 per cent and are much more dependent on credit and credit cards.

In the North-west, Coronation Street lives on with the region spending more in pubs which are rated highly as key centres of social activity.

All regions rated a safe neighbourhood as their primary concern, but financial worries. long working hours and lack of free time topped the factors listed by those living in London and the South-east as the issues limiting their enjoyment of life.

The North-west emerges as the home of bargain hunters and the higgest users of market stalls, but it is not the region that enjoys shopping most. That accolade goes to the South-west and Wales, followed by Scotland, with the Scots rating "lots of money" as the a key factor needed for a good quality of life. [Regional Lifestyles, Mintel, 18-19 Long Acre, London, EC1

Unions flex their muscles in pay disputes



Brothers in arms: Dockers picketing in Liverpool. They were sacked for refusing to cross a picket line set up by colleagues Photograph: Howard Barlow

BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

Leaders of Ford's 22,000 manual workers yesterday ordered a ballot on strikes in the new year amid signs of increasing industrial unrest elsewhere.

As Ford union leaders threatened action, tugboatmen at Liverpool docks staged an unlawful 24-hour stoppage in support of 320 dockers who have been locked out for refusing to cross picket lines.

of 9,000 blue-collar workers warned that industrial action would be stepped up unless talks with management tomorrow produced an improved pay offer. The overtime ban and twohour weekly stoppage at Vauxhall comes amid widespread disruption of postal services including a 24-hour strike over working hours which af-

fected 21 centres in central

London on Monday.
While the sporadic industrial action does not represent a

itancy, it is nevertheless fresh evidence of discontent among workers in various industries. Representatives of seven

unions at Ford yesterday called

for a vote on action, having re-

jected a two-year package which crease, hut which fails to offer a reduction in the working week. Tony Woodley, chief negotiator for the Transport and

General Workers' Union in the motor industry, said the ballot, was the logical next step in the widespread resurgence of mil- campaign to elicit a better offer. full that they could bring an end stevedoring company.

Workers wanted to share in the increasing profitability yielded by improvements in productivity, and they were furious over the "industrial apartheid" which meant they worked longer hours than colleagues in Europe.

He said unions were opti-

mistic that a settlement could be reached without industrial action, but a spokesman for the company insisted that the present offer was "final".

· A spokesman for Vauxhall said management were "hopeto the dispute in negotiations tomorrow. The two-year offer gives a 3.5 per cent rise in the ast year and a rise matching the inflation rate in the second.

The Liverpool tugboatmen were expected to return to work last night after their 24hour stoppage. Further sympa-thy action will be considered in a meeting scheduled for tomorrow. The 320 port workers were dismissed after taking action to back 80 other dockers in-

Abortion surgeon feared patient's suicide

of performing an illegal abortion said yesterday that he did

view his patient had on abortion. Gynaecologist and obstetrician Reginald Dixon said he knew from Barbara Whiteo's medical notes that she gave her religioo as Church of England.

denies unlawfully procuring a miscarriage, there was a "seriously significant risk" that allowing Mrs Whiten's pregnancy to continue might lead her to commit suicide in the future.

"An unplanned and unwanted pregnancy is a greater risk than the termination of an unwanted one," Mr Dixon said.

tion this concern in his notes on eration that she was pregnant the operation. "The ootes were written at the end of a husy morning and were written in a

Mr Dixon was supposed to perform a hysterectomy on Mrs Whiten, 38, at Kings Mill hospital, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, in March 1993.

but continued, which meant aborting the 11-week-old foetus. Mrs Whiten did not discov-

er she had been pregnant until after the operation. She had desperately wanted a family but had heen told her illness made her

Mr Dixon, 59, said he be-

endometriosis, a painful womb condition, as she had been told. He thought she had some othunspecified internal pain.

"If I had gone into the details and spent a great deal of time I am sure she would have said to me 'I don't care what I have got, I want relief from the





for Return to the Forbidden Planet

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joining boxes for the sci-fi rock 'n' roll spectacular, Return To The Forbidden Planet. Bob Carlton's musical, which won the 1990 Olivier Award for Best Musical, is a mind-blowing reworking of The Tempest laced with rock classics such as Great Balls Of Fire and Good Vibrations.

The music is performed live by the multi-talented cast and Gerry Anderson, creator of Thunder-hirds, designed the dazzling video special effects.

The prizewinner's performance takes place at the Shaftesbury Theatre on Friday 22 December. 1995, and to be in with a chance of winning two boxes for a total of six people, simply answer the follow-ing question.

Question: Who originally recorded Good Vibrations?

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Your call will last no longer than a minute. Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times. Normal Newspaper Publishing rules apply, the Editor's decision is final. There is no cash alternative. Sorry, this competition is not open to readers in the Republic of Ireland. For further details of this show which runs until 13 January, please call the booking office on 0171 379 5399.

> Tomorrow: Win tickets for Wind in the Willows



Solicitors in Turner unearthed by detective work fetches £100,500

move to ban cut-price house sales

STEPHEN WARD Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Law Society faces one of the stormiest meetings in its 200-year history tomorrow when thousands of solicitors try to force the profession to ban

Cut-price conveyancing.

Only the 65 members of the Society's council will be allowed to vote on a proposal to introduce minimum fees which would double the cost of buying or selling a house for £300. most people. But scores of Mr solicitors are likely to converge on the headquarters in London to lobby before the meeting.

John Edge, a Bournemouth solicitor, has led a campaign in on the legality of the move. recent months to force action over conveyancing fees as low as £150. He claims to have the support of 11,000 solicitors, almost one-fifth of the profession.

For years the Law Society has argued that it is not allowed under the law to introduce a restrictive practice, but in the first contested elections for 40 years, the anti-establishment candidates for president and deputy, Martin Mears and Robert Sayers, pledged to find

They believe they can do it by refusing the Law Society's in-demnity insurance to solicitors who refuse to charge the minimum fees. Cheap solicitors would then have to insure themselves on the open market, a far more costly process, and not a genuine option. A consultation document prepared by Mr Sayers, the vice-president, for this week's meeting argues that firms which offer cut-price conveyancing are cutting corners and making a disproportionate lar but argues it is not in the condemands on the insurance scheme, the Solicitors Indemnity Fund. A minimum fee of

house price - not including VAT, land registration and searches - is suggested.

Consumer groups argue that the way to deal with shoddy work is to police the profession better, and not to stop efficient firms from undercuting others. The proposed guideline would take the cost of conveying a £75,000 house to £625. The Law Society has found that three out of four houses are currently conveyed for less than

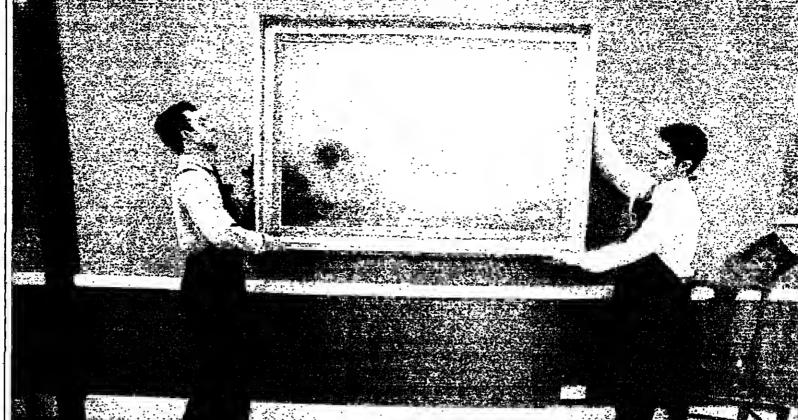
Mr Mears will attempt to push the controversial proposals through the council and, if successful, ask for comments from the profession and rulings

A fixed scale of fees, enforceable by law, was abolished by the Government in 1972, but fees remained high until the mid-1980s when genuine competition was introduced by the abolition of the solicitors' monopoly on conveyancing and an Act allowing solicitors to advertise.

Under the Solicitors Act, for a price-fixing agreement to be allowed it needs to be accepted by the Master of the Rolls. who would have to be persuaded that the move was in the public interest.

Aware that the 65 council members are likely to be cautious about the change, Mr Mears plans to begin the meeting with an attempt to change the voting system so that a record is kept of how each person votes.

Mr Mears, elected president this year in the first contest for the post in 40 years, conceded the move would not be popusumer's interest to have professionals on the cheap - he maintains that the public needs £250, plus half a per cent of the to have professions it can trust.



A previously unknown painting by Turner, bought for a few dol-lars at a Canadian country sale, fetched £100,500 when sold to an anonymous collector at an auction at Phillips in London

yesterday. The painting was only con-firmed Turner's work after a pre-vious owner decided to have conservation work carried out. After restorers failed to match the image. Landscape with a Rainbow: to other Turners, West Yorkshire police officers were called in.

John Manners, the head of the force's fingerprint hureau. matched a fingertip print on the painting with one from Turner's famous work, Chichester Canal, at London's Tate Gallery.

John Dabney, Phillips' British painting specialist, said: "It is probably the first time fingerprinting has figured in such an obvious way in confirming the identity of the artist."

At Phillips yesterday, the original puppet stars of the Thunderbirds television series were also yesterday sold to anonymous buyers. A British collector paid £23,000 for the 9ft model of Lady Penelope's pink Rolls-Royce. The same huyer also bought Parker, Lady Penelope's faithful Cockney chauffeur, for £t9.550.

The pupper of Lady Penelope was sold to an American huyer for £13.800. All were original models brought to auction

Britain on 'tortuous' road to save flora and fauna

NICHOLAS SCHOON **Environment Correspondent**

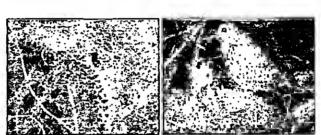
An environmental steering group has set the Government a tough challenge to rescue 116 rapidly declining or very rare wildlife species and 14

threatened habitats, at a cost approaching £40m a year. The report, published today, contains a lengthy set of costed rescue plans, drawn up by civil servants from the Department of the Environment, to-gether with university experts, government agencies, and wildlife conservation bodies

such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the World Wide Fund for Nature

The group claims that the document makes Britain the first country in the world to prepare such detailed plans for preserving its hiodiversity in the variety of flora and fauna. The Government has promised to respond to the document in the spring, declaring how many of

the plans it is willing to fund. By 2010, about £37m a year will have to be spent if the various habitats, which include native pine woodlands and saline



lagoons, are to be preserved, the report says.

It also points out that Britain has already lost some 100 species this century, including more than 2 per cent of its fish

Listed species: The great crested newt and the song timush and mammals, and 5 per cent

> of its butterflies. Nine mammals - including the otter, the dormouse, and nine hirds - are listed as being in need of support, along with

one reptile (the sand lizard), two amphibians (the natterjack toad and great crested newt) and four freshwater fish. Insects and other invertehrates, such as the medicinal leech, are also on the list, as are flowering and other types of plants.

The varied species were chosen for one of four reasons: they are very rare, their numbers have fallen rapidly in recent times, they are unique to these islands, or Britain harbours a large proportion of the total global population.

One species of bird, the song thrush, numbers more than I

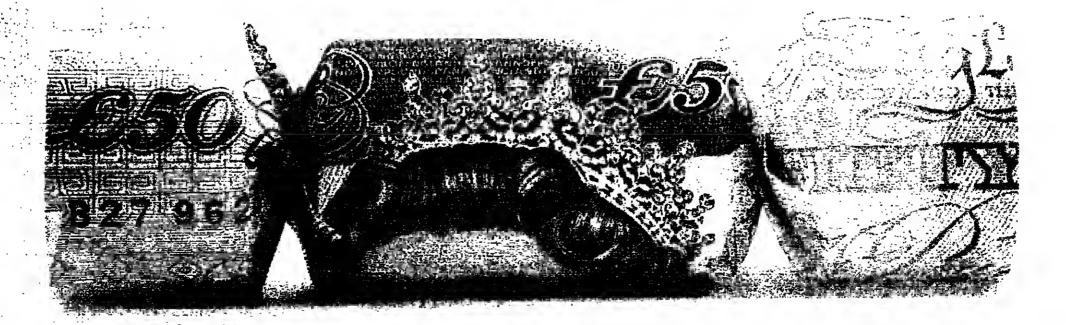
list because of its rapid decline over the past 20 years, It is thought to be a victim of modern farming methods, and is still hunted in France, where some British birds migrate in winter. The action plan calls for a halt to the bird's decline by 2000 by subsidising "green" farming methods, and pressing for a hunting han in France.

Robin Pellow, WWF's UK director, said that implementing the plans "will be a long and tortuous road which will require substantial financial commitment from government".

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Single currency debate: Redwood challenge to reject monetary union in election manifesto raises chances of referendum

Tory divisions over Europe back to fore

DONALD MACINTYRE and COLIN BROWN

The promise of a referendum on the European single currency was moving up the agenda last night after the uneasy truce in the Tory party on Europe was ed by a fresh cumpaign launched by John Redwood.

The referendum promise by John Major before next year's crucial inter-governmental conference on Europe was emerging as the likeliest way of uniting the party for a general election.
It came as Tory leaders tried to avoid a fresh outhreak of civ-

il war on the eve of Mr Major's negotiations at the Madrid sumil. Euro-sceptics meeting at Westminster last night said they would not rock the boat.

Senior Government sources said Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, may be prepared reluctantly to accept the referendum formula as a preferable alternative to ruling out Britain's

"There is an unholy alliance building up for a referendum," said one ministerial source.

Mr Redwood said yesterday: "I am happy we are saying no to 8 single currency in this Parliament. I hope when the manifesto is written, we will make clear statements for the next Parliament. I would like to say no for the next Parliament so people know exactly where we are. I would certainly like the Prime Minister 10 say there is no question of this country go-

ing in without a referendum."

Mr Redwood's remarks reopened the row over Europe, with a rebuke by Lord Howe and Sir Leon Brittan, one of Britain's European commissioners. In a joint statement, they said fighting the next elec-tion apposed to Britain joining a single currency would he "profoundly mistaken".

They added: "Any Conservative manifesto commitment against a single currency would inevitably divide the party, fu-elling its electoral difficuloes. It would see the Conservative leadership against major parts of UK husiness and finance. undermining the party's political base.

Rohin Cook, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, said: "The truce in the Tory party is over. John Redwood has once again revealed the deep divi-sions among Conservatives over

In the Commons, Mr Major assured Mr Redwood that at the Madrid summit this weekend he would be pressing his arguments that the impact of a single currency, both on those who joined and those who did not, needed to be much more thoroughly thought through.

Euro-sceptic hostility is likely to be fuelled by a probable summit decision to name the single currency - with the term "Euro" a favoured choice. Mr Redwood said it would be "churlish" not to engage in the debate about the name, but the more serious challenge was to stop any attempt by the French



Throwing the gauntiet: Mr Redwood at his press conference yesterday, at which he denied reopening Tory wound

and the Germans to water down the Maastricht treaty criteria for

joining a single currency. British officials insisted that the Madrid agenda did not provide for a debate on varying the convergence criteria as a means of rescuing France join-

ing the European Monetary Union in the face of its current domestic strife. The French are believed in be keen to ease the restrictions over its level of

gen, one of the nine former "whipless" Tory rebels, pre-dicted that the truce in the party over Europe would hold until the general election. He also said that in the event of a debt, which could prevent it meeting the Maastricht criteria.

Meanwhile, Nicholas Budbecome wholly Euro-sceptic.

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Redwood joins battle with a pamphlet blast

COLIN BROWN

A fresh challenge to John Major was issued by John Redwood yesterday, with a warning not to weaken over the Maastricht terms for creating a single cur-rency on the eve of the Madrid European summit.

He said Mr Major should not allow Germany and France to change the rules laid down in the Maastricht Treaty requiring currency stability for at least two years before a single currency could be launched. The former Welsh secretary, who chal-lenged for the leadership in July, denied he was reopening Tory

wounds on Europe. He accused Tony Blair of being "an appeaser on Europe" when he launched a pamphlet to begin a campaign among British businessmen to oppose the single currency.

Mr Redwood said he be-

lieved Mr Major and other leaders would be pressed at Madrid to allow terms for 8 sinlow France to join with says the main argument against Germany. "That is the game a single currency is that it would plan, I think ... Britain should say the Maastricht requirements are the hare minimum and there should be no dilution at all. This is a highly dangerous venture. If economies are not in line with one another, it could do damage to jobs, pros-

perity, opportunity. A Treasury source confirmed no one in Whitehall believed the two-year rule would he a bar-

rier to creation of a single currency. Mr Redwood said the single-currency drive was the cause of the riots in France, because it had forced Paris to maintain high interest rates to keep the franc high against the Mark.
The single-currency scheme is
in crisis. The Exchange Rate Mechanism was meant to be a success and the currencies were meant to be trading together and be comfortable. They are not. Britain is in a very good position to say 'Hold on - let's think this through from first

Mr Major could fulfil his commitment to be at the heart of Europe by arguing with a dis-tinctive view which was different from Germany and France. "Britain has a very positive agenda for jobs and prosperity.
That, I am sure, is what the Prime Minister will be putting forward. You don't put yourself at the heart of Europe if you ring up Germany just to hear

what she wants. In his pamphlet Mr Redwood be a hig step on the way to a single European nadon. But it would mean higher taxation to cross-subsidise other countries, lead to higher prices, and cause economic disruption.

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The Single European Currency, by John Redwood, Tecla Editions in association with Conservative 2000 Foundation, PO Box 7567, London NW3 2LJ

Major to accept EU accord on fighting racism

SARAH HELM

John Major is expected to agree to a compromise package of Europe-wide anti-racism and antisemitism measures, when he meets with his European partners at the Madrid summil this Senint officials are meeting

in Brussels today in an attempt to hammer out a formula, and diplomats said yesterday that a deal was likely to be ready in time for the summit on Friday. However, further clashes on the subject loom, as the European Commission meets today to discuss its proposals to introduce a separate raft of mea-

sures which would outlaw discrimination in all EUlegislation and to declare 1997 "the European year against racism". Last month, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, caused a furore in Brussels when he vetoed the proposals drawn up within the Council of Ministers, which included calls for all member states to outlaw holocaust denial, as well as uniform laws to ban racist or discriminatory behaviour. Mr Howard shocked other Euro-

pean interior ministers when he

lost his temper in a council

meeting and accused the rest of

Britain was particularly loath to introduce a new law banning discrimination on the grounds of religion. Religious discrimi-

"lecturing" Britain.



Furore: Michael Howard

nadon is not at present a basis for criminal action under British anti-racism laws.

It now appears that the Government may be ready to accept the EU proposals if clearer language is agreed to ensure that the "intent" to provoke racial hatred is clarified. The compromise forumula is also expected to be less specific about what domestic law changes will be necessary, as a result of EU harmonisation. However, it is still unclear whether Britain will agree to introduce a law hanning holocaust denial.

Britain's isolation on such a sensitive issue has proved embarrassing to the Government. Germany, in particular, has expressed anger at the British stand. Chancellor Helmut Kohl is determined to tighten Europe's common action against racism and xenophobia in order to stem the rise of neo-Nazism.

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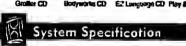
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French pilots drama: General Mladic, amid rumours of a trade-off with Paris, toasts the recovery of the men he held captive

'My first thought is for my family'

EMMA DALY

The French pilots released by rebel Serbs fter more than 100 days in captivity walked tentatively to freedom at a motel in a dreary border town yesterday. The senior French general sent to collect them drank plum brandy with the captor - the man who had for weeks refused to acknowledge their existence. the indicted war criminal, Gen-

Limping slightly and squinting against the barrage of television lights, Captain Frederic Chiffot and Lieutenant Jose Souvignet told reporters they had been treated "quite well".

Capt Chiffot looked the

worse for wear as the pair emerged from a jeep in the car park of a motel in Zvornik, on the border with Serbia, and Lieutenant Souvignet did most

of the taiking.
"I had some pain in my leg but they had very good doctors," he said. Both men sustained leg injuries while ejecting from their Mirage 2000, shot down over the Serb mountain headquarters, Pale, during Nato bombing raids on 30 August.

"My first thought is for my family," the lieutenant said. "I would like to send them a message, but not with so many people around." General Jean-Philippe Donin, the French. army chief-of-staff, was on hand to greet the pair, alongside General Mladic, the Bosnian Serb commander who held them hostage for so long.

The party gathered to drink plum brandy with General Mladic who looked jovial. In a breath-taking, but wholly characteristic act of cheek,

General Mladic wished the

recovery," he said, "and I wish you to be pilots again, but of planes for peace." As he offered the men apples from a bowl of fruit, the man accused by the UN War Crimes Tribunal of direct responsibility for the murder of thousands of Muslim civilians, added: "This should be a lesson for the future that all problems should he solved

peacefully. The surreal tone was echoed by Colonel Vladimir Kuljis, a Russian sent to aid the pilots
Telease, who praised General
Mladic's "humanity". He said:
"I hope the whole world will appreciate this act by the Serbs. Liberation of the French pilots was an act of humanity.

of hope this will show what kind of people the Serbs are and that this will lead to a better situation.

The pilots, last seen as their parachutes drifted to earth as the jet plunged to the ground in flames, said little about their ordeal. Lieutenant Souvignet said the two were kept apart for six weeks in adjoining rooms, but were later allowed exercise.

"Our guards allowed us to speak to each other now and then," he added. They spoke to their captors in English, then learned a few words of Serbo-Croat, "Not a lot, but enough", Lieutenant Souvignet said. Then we were able to ask for bread and water and our elementary needs."

There had been no news of the pilots since their capture, prompting many Nato officials to give up hope that they would re-surface alive.

In September Paris-Match published photos of the two looking bleary-eyed, held up by Bosnian Serb soldiers and with their features distorted to avoid Fears for their safety grew in October, when Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, announced they had been kidnapped by an unknown "Muslim group".

This story was supported by Russian sources who claimed their captors were not under the full control of the leadership. However, given the iron grip of the police in the "Srpska Republic", such a scenario was almost inconceivable.

In mid-November, the International Committee of the Red Cross transmitted a secret message from the Serbian government to officials in Paris, but a spokesman refused to divulge its contents.

French reaction to the loss of the pilots was muted for much of the antumn, amounting to occasional demands for information on their fate. It was only after the Dayton peace agreement that Paris began to threaten unspecified action if the men were not released. Given France's penchant for doing deals in exchange for hostages. there is much speculation about a possible trade-off.

Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier, the French commander of UN forces in the former Yugoslavia, visited Sarajevo on Monday, But he did not visit UN headquarters, which suggests he was not on UN business. He left for Paris yesterday.

Suggestions of trade-offs include a French attempt to improve guarantees for the Serbs in areas of Sarajevo due to revert to government rule, a demand by General Mladic that the War Crimes Tribuoal drop charges against him and a request that Mr Karadzic, also into Paris for the signing of the



Dress rehearsal: British Warrior armoured vehicles at target practice near Gornji Vakuf, central Bosnia

Photograph: Chris Helgren/Reuter

Sarajevo Serbs vent rage with futile vote

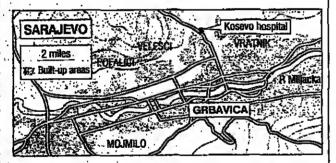
The leadership will claim overwhelming victory, but everyone knows a is a lost cause. Thousands of Serbs living in Sarajevo districts due to revert to government control next year under the Dayton peace plan turned out yes-terday to issue a resounding "No". The question was: "Are you in favour of Serbian Sarajevo becoming a part of the federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina (Mushim-Croat entity) and coming under federation control?"

"I'm very sure every single per-son registered here will vote in this referendum and I'm convinced all will vote against the Dayton plan," said Milenko Ru-

As president of the electoral commission for polling station No 1, a small room in the mu-nicipal building draped in Serbian flags and adorned with a rug bearing the Serbian double-headed eagle, he knows the electorate is well-versed in returning the right result. Referendums on peace plans have become an annual event in the Srpska Republic, and the correct answer is always

Would the result force the would ine resun force the world to change the Dayton plan? He avoided the question, but said Serbs should keep control of their part of the city because the Bosnian President wants an ethnically clean Islamic state. — a rich assertion from an efficient of a party that specified official of a party that specified, from the outset, its desire to kill or expel all non-Serbs.

If I have to go, I will burn my house and I think every Serb will do the same," Mr Rupar said. Most of his constituents agreed. "I will burn my house. I have lived here for 18 years and everything I have is here," said Sinisa Srdic, Referendum will not alter peace plan, writes Emma Daly in Grbavica



an 18-year-old student. How did he vote? "For us to stay here", he said. Under government control? "No, not under Muslim authority but under Serb authority."

That option is not on offer. But the answer highlights the confu-sion amongst many in Grbavica, the only significant Serb area to suffer anything like the misery inflicted on the rest of Sarajevo. "It's a firmry atmosphere here - we are really disappointed and confused," said one woman who, like many, did not want her name

"We know what will happen but we just can't believe it." She believes perhaps a third of the population will stay – those braver than herself, as she put it – while the rest will go.

So far there are few signs of people leaving, although the authorities are dismantling and removing military and industrial equipment. The young woman

equipment. The young woman and her family plan to wait until the last minute, horrified as they are by the idea of moving to Pale, the mountain village "capital" of the Serb republic.

blank looks, and vague hopes of a visa to another world. Few consider remaining under govern-ment control, infected as they are by Serb propaganda and un-nerved by the Bosnian leader-ship's refusal to grant amnesties to soldiers, who include virtually every able-bodied man aged 18

Serbs in Grbavica respond with

Away from the crowd the oc-casional dissenting voice breaks through. A Serb woman in her early thirties stood in the snow on the Serb side of the Bridge of Brotherhood and Unity, where razor wire, barricades and provocative signs ("Welcome to Srpska Republic") mark the front line. She was standing beside three elderly Muslim women, stranded on the Serb side, await ing visits from relatives in Sara-

jevo proper.

They had all voted "Yes", they said — until a Serb policeman strolled up. The Serb woman waited until he had passed. "Don't tell anybody, but I think it would be better to live togeth-Asked where they will go, be open."

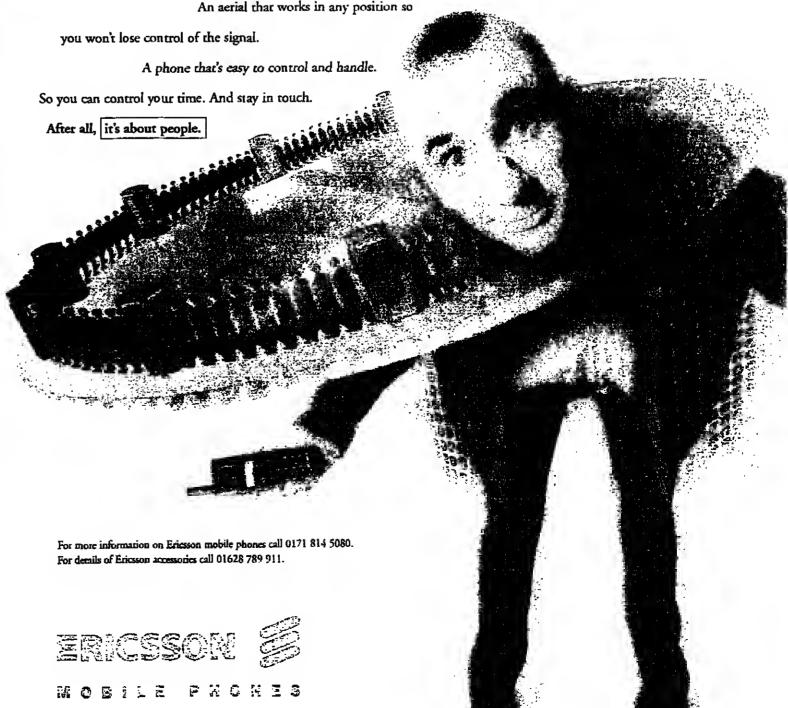


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As Christmas approaches, the Independent is asking readers to support four charities working to help child victims of the wars in former Yugoslavia -Save the Children, the Red Cross, War Child and Child Advocacy International. Aid will be used to reunite families, running refugee camps, healing the wounded and bringing 100 sick children to Britain for treatment Donations so far have reached

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France in revolt: Demonstrators march in record numbers, dashing hopes that 'welfare' strikes could be losing momentum

Juppé under threat from renewed protest

MARY DEJEVSKY

Paris and other French cities yesterday witnessed some of their biggest demonstrations in 50 years when hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets to protest against the government's proposed wel-

fare reforms. The demonstrations, dashing hopes that the welfare protests were running out of steam. were called by two of the major public-sector unions, the Force Ouvrière (FO) and the CGT. They brought together employees from every part of France's diverse public sector, from railwaymen and the staff of public utilities, to hospital workers, teachers, and post and telecommunications staff.

The size of the demonstrations was interpreted by some as a last glorious gesture by the unions, before they agree to settle on terms similar to those proposed in recent days by the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé – a view ruled out absolutely by the leader of the CGT. Louis Viannet. The scale of the turnouts was seen by other comme otators as a real threat both to the welfare reforms and to

Mr Juppé's survival. In Marseilles, onlookers and police alike professed to be astonished by the 100,000 or more who turned out in the old port, forming the biggest postwar demonstration in the city. hlew horns, beat drums and

eral hours. All road entrances to the cathedral city of Chartres were manned by pickets handing out campaign leaflets, and delaying traffic into the city. In Paris, where the numbers

were as great, if not greater than in Marseilles, tens of thousands of demonstrators were still waiting to leave the starting point of the procession, at

annet: CGT leader

Place de la République, when the leaders had already arrived

at Nation, two miles away. In scenes replete with revolutionary images, the dense column of marchers, shrouded in smoke from hundreds of bright pink flares, wheeled slowly around the Bastille monument. Waving brightly coloured hanners and halloons, they chanted anti-reform slogans,

EDIXONS LATEST CONSTRELEASE

In the naval port of Toulon, the sang folk songs with anti-arsenal was blockaded for sev-government lyrics, or snatches mificant, rank and file opinioo government lyrics, or snatches of the Internationale.

People living in a flat overlooking the march route offered a note of encouragement to those waiting below with a oo-tice displayed in their windows announcing the huge turnouts elsewhere: "Marseilles: 200,000; Rouen and Toulouse: 80,000; Bordeaux [where Mr Juppé is mayor]: 40,000. Paris – how

The protests, whose size appeared to he totally unanticipated by the police, came after a weekend in which Mr Juppé has made concession after concession in meeting objections raised by individual sectors. But he has refused absolutely to dilute the core of his welfare reforms which are necessary, among other things, to qualify France for membership of the European single currency from 1999.

The changes are designed to streamline the welfare system, reduce waste and cut a deficit which is currently running at more than Fr60bn a year. They are part of an overall effort by President Chirac and Mr Juppe to cut France's budget deficit to meet the Maastricht cooditions for European Monetary Union, hut also to modernise France's public sector and bring it into line with other European legislation.

While some trade union officials have said that they believe

in the public sector seems singularly unmoved - an aspect which the government is likely to find worrying in a protest where the running has been made more by ordinary unioo

members than by their leaders. In strikes that have remained utterly solid, France has been without any national rail service now for almost three weeks, and Paris and several other major cities have been without all forms of public transport for almost as long. In many places, post, telecommunications, schools and government of-

fices have also been crippled. So far, Mr Juppé has tried to deal separately with the most militant sectors and the most emotive issues. He appointed a mediator to discuss a contentious restructuring plan for the railways, suspended a commission to consider special public-sector pension arrange-ments, and agreed to meet union representatives.

On Monday he agreed to the social summit" demanded by the unions - but said that it would discuss employment policy generally, as well as publicservice pay and conditions. This immediately provoked a bowl of rage from employers' representatives, who warned Mr Juppé that this was a sure way of extending the dispute into the private sector, something that has, so far, been avoided



Taking it to the top: A union member enlists a monument to make his point in Marseilles

Spain's Euro-cream turns sour

moving towards monetary union, Elizabeth

The French welfare revolt has set Spain's authorities a jitter. The Ecocomy Minister, Pedro Solbes, has been trying to reassure everyone that nothing similar could occur this side of the Pyrenees as long as Spain holds to its economic policies. He argues that although the de-mands of Brussels must be met for Spain to be in the running for a single curreocy by 1999, sacrifices can be shared so that

no one screams with pain. He announced this week spending cuts of 900bo pesetas (£4.80n) over the oext year but gave oo indication where they might fall. Obvious targets are,

as in France, pensions, social government inherited wheo it

make no cuts in these areas. Spain differs from France in two important respects. First, the Spanish Socialist government has been achieving budget cuts for years by strenuous arm-twisting, accompanied by threats of worse treatment if deals are not reached.

Second, Spain's welfare state, though an advance on what the

Nash reports on the potential pain for Madrid services and public sector employment. Mr Solbes pledged to short of that enjoyed by the Failur French. The private sector takes much of the burden of health for a natioo that views EU

In the second in a series on the problems of . will meet the EU criteria for a

comprehensible to most Spaniards, who look to the family to fulfil that responsibility.

state. The idea of a "cradle to

grave" state provisioo is in-

single currency by 1999 and that treods are moving in the right direction. But Spain fails all the Maastricht criteria and Brussels fears it may not catch up

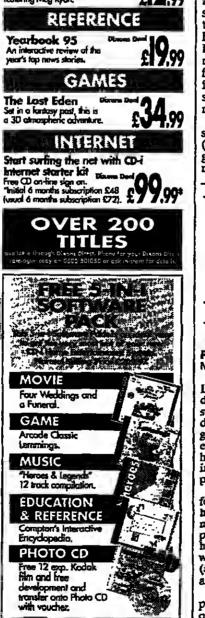
Failure to meet the 1999 deadline would a crushing blow care and pensions which in membership as the seal upon its France or Britain is borne by the existence as a modern democracy. But for millions of Spaniards, especially the unemployed, the European dream has already turned sour; further welfare cuts could tip the prescot mood of cynicism and Mr Solbes insists that Spain apathy into one of revolt.



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Violence stalks the candidates in Russian poll

PHIL REEVES

elections. But in Russia, where hloodshed and politics go hand in hand, it is depressingly

Mr Beryozkin, who is running for a seat in Moscow, claims to have heen approached by a man offering to kill or main his political opponents. The man had a price list: a car "crash" would set a client back \$7,000 (£4,500); bomb attacks could be arranged for only \$15,000.

Given recent events, it is possible the would-be assassin, or others of his ilk, has picked up some husiness. For the elections to the State Duma, or lower house, are spawning a list of incidents-shootings, bombings, mysterious accideots - that would more commonly be associated with a remote, timpot dictatorship.

At the weekend, Vitaly Savitsky, who led the Christians of Russia faction, became the third candidate to die on the campaign trail in less than three weeks. His chauffeur-driven car collided with a Mercedes in St Petersburg when he was returning from a radio interview. Police said it was an accident,

people turned out for a funer-Mikhail Lezhrev, who was mys-strike for a fift teriously shot to death outside ilar demands.

his home in Chelyabinsk, where he was a candidate for the government-backed Our Home Is In any advanced and stable Russia party. Nor has there yet democracy, Grigory Beryozkin's been any conclusive explanation story would probably have been dismissed as a cheap attempt to gain publicity before Sunday's donov, 34, a deputy campaignwhy someone pumped a bullet into the head of Sergei Marki-donev, 34, a deputy campaign-ing for re-election, while he was in a hotel room in the Siberian city of Petrov-Zabaikalsky on 26

> There have been other puzzling incidents. A liberal parliamentarian, Anatoly Shabad, of the Russia's Choice faction, is in hospital for injuries after being run over by a car in Moscow while he was crossing the street. A week ago a powerful explosion wrecked the office of an extreme right-wing deputy inside the Russian par-liament building, without caus-ing serious injuries. Police in the Caucasus are investigating an in-cident in which an independent candidate's car ended up being blasted by bullets.

It will be a while before Russians know which of these incidents were the result of bad luck and which were caused by mafia feuding, political skulduggery, or other factors. But they are enough to spur the Russian Interior Ministry into action: it has pledged to flood the streets with police to prevent further bloodshed before the elections. A few dozen oil workers and

their families in two villages in typical of the icy winter conditions in the oorthern city; his colleagues said it was murder.

On Monday, thousands of and pay. In the Moscow region. and pay. In the Moscow region, two dozen coal miners continal in the Ural mountains for ued an underground hunger strike for a fifth day, with sim-

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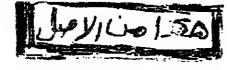


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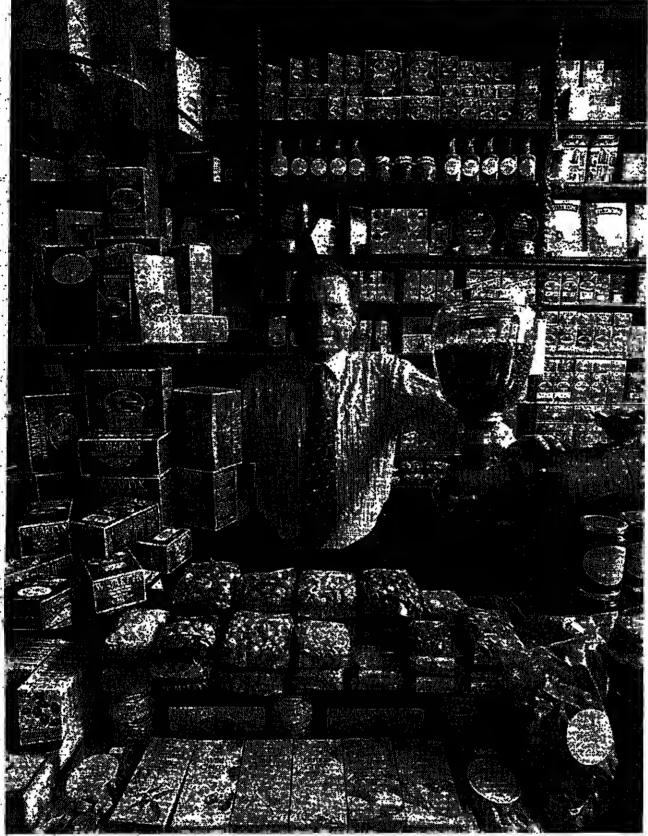
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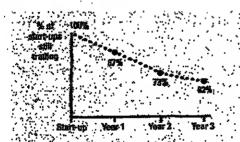


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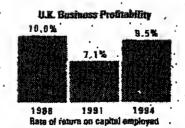
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M. Hinson of Wellingborough
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The independent view:



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for personal account holders. At the FPB, wa believe that written contracts, setting out the whole relationship, would be a good way forward. Both sides have a respon-

"Banks need to explain exactly what the charges are for." Stars Meridiani: Shipt Executive Forum Of Private Business

sibility to improve relations: customers should be more willing to share management and financial information. And banks, in turn, should reward those customers with improved margins and charges."

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West Bank withdrawal: Palestinian joy is mixed with wariness as occupiers quit Nablus

Arabs rejoice as Israelis pull out

Nablus

"Everybody was caught by surprise," says Husam Khader, one of Palestinian leaders in Nablus, as he describes the final moments of the Israeli withdrawal from his city. The Israeli forces pulled out 24 hours ear- combat soldiers armed with asly, apparently in the hope of preg last-minute clashes with

local Palestinian stone throwers. came disastrously unstuck. Is- housed in a large dirty cream raeli radio prematurely announced late on Monday evening that its troops were pulling out that night. "Some of our boys went down to the military headquarters looking for a fight," said Mr Khader. There were still about 50 Israeli

border guards. I called all my friends to tell our people with guns to go there there and get them out. We escorted them to the nearest Israeli checkpoint."

By yesterday morning the 1,200 police of the Palestinian Authority were fully in control. They are, in fact, not police, but sault rifles and in full military uniform. Units in green berets ocal Palestinian stone throwers. were carrying mattresses into the old Israeli headquarters, building. Apart from an old wooden chair on which a bored soldier had carved his name in Hebrew, the building was scraped clean. Even the washing bowls in the lavatory were smashed and somebody had defecated on the floor.

The Israeli withdrawal from Nablus, the largest city on the West Bank with a population of 130,000, is the critical moment in implementation of the Oslo accords. In Jerusalem a senior Israeli official said: "We can never go back in." The escalation of violence by the Israeli ex-treme right, which culminated in the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, on 4 November, came because they believed the pullout from cities like Nablus made a Palestinian state inevitable.

In a villa built into the side of the mountain overlooking Nablus, Mahmoud Aloul, the new Palestinian governor, complains that the departing Israelis destroyed the telephone lines and electricity supply in their



Palestinians dancing and cheering in Nablus yesterday to celebrate the early end of Israeli military occupation

organise the intifada in the city from abroad. Two months ago headquarters". He cannot move in until they are repaired. Born in Nablus, he was jailed for four

years in 1967, a few months af-

ter Israel captured the city in the

Six Day War. He was then de-

ported for 24 years, but helped

he came back. The mood of Palestinian leaders in the city swings be-tween exhilaration at being in extent of their gains, since Israeli forces still surround Nablus. Nevertheless, Sami Musallum head of the office in Jericho of Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, looked quietly triumphant him through the gates of Jneid prison, which used to hold between 850 and 1,000 prisoners. He said: "Some people want to use it once again as a hospital, but I think it should turn it into a museum. This is where our freedom fighters were held and

tortured.

Mr Khader, 34, is the leader of Fatah, the main Palestinian political organisation, among the 16,000 people in Balata refugee camp, just south of Nabius. "People believe in the Oslo agreement because they are seeing some results on the dom is freedom."

Why this is not the same of the lack of democracy in Fatah, Mr Khader, a hardened intifada leader, said: "I cried when I saw the Israelis leave, because freedom." ground," he said. "But this is not enough, because we have only a little bit of our lands." The refugees in Balata, who fled from Jaffa and Lod in Israel in 1948, are disappointed that Oslo does not do anything to win them back their homes. Fatah activists like Mr Khader are also angry that Mr Arafat is preferring notable families and PLO politicians from abroad in the election to the 82-member Palestinian Council, which is to

be held oo 20 January.

rain and the crash of Israeli jets breaking the sound barrier overhead, most of the population was celebrating. People hrought their children to look at the deserted rooms of the military headquarters and central police stations, both now dec-orated with Palestinian flags. After expressing his reservations about the partial nature of the Israeli withdrawal and the lack

Washington — Israel's Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, addressing a joint meeting of Congress, issued an emotional appeal to President Hafez al-Assad of Syria to join him in building a new peaceful Middle East, Renter reports. But in his two-day visit to Washington, a wary electorate at home has prevented Mr Peres from saying the words Damascus wants to hear: full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights.

Damascus gave a cautious wel-There were few signs of these doubts on the streets of Nablus yesterday. Despite drenching break the deadlock.

Haiti: where a human life is worth 5p

PHIL DAVISON Saint Marc, Haiti

I've seen someone shot over a

gourde." Frank Norbury, a staff sergeant in the United States Army Special Forces, had just helped to quell a near-riot in a village 60 miles north of the capital, Port-au-Prince. He was talking about the incident that sparked the riot: the shooting of a bus conductor by an offduty policeman over a single gourde, the Haitian unit of cur-

rency, worth about 5p.
Celestin Nene, the 26-yearold conductor on the gaily-painted tap-tap bus had asked the officer of the new UStrained Haitian National Police for the standard 13-gourde fare. The policeman, 20-year-old Revelus Kender, refused to give him more than 12. An ar-gument ensued. Kender hauled the conductor on to the village's main street and fired at him on

when we arrived minutes later, hundreds of villagers were demanding justice, hurning tyres, harricading the main street and yelling abuse at nervous Honduran troops of the UN peace-keeping force. "You're protecting a murderer.
Go home," they screamed.
Sgt Norbury and US Special
Forces Captain Garth Estadt,
dripping with survival and comhat sear, had arrived to help

bat gear, had arrived to help keep an angry mob from storm-ing the local police station, where Kender had fled. It might have been just an-other shooting in Haih but it was the sort of spark the Haitian authorities and their US and UN protectors fear could ignite

serious disturbances in the runup to Sunday's presidential The fledgling police force has already been criticised for a seties of trigger-happy incidents (and the fact that it still includes members of the hated, military-

led former security forces).

A group of 88 from 2 Battalion, 3 US Special Forces, is People die for nothing here all eas of central and northern the time. But this is the first time Haitl, patrolling rugged terrain Tve seen someone shot over a in 4-wheel drives, oo mountain motorbikes and even on horseback. Despite the angry red graffiti of "Yankees, Dirty Dogs, Pigs" on Saint Marc village walls, the US troops are gen-

erally well-received.

The graffiti may have been painted by those who accuse the Special Forces of siding with Haiti's former military or militia chiefs against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's leftist government.

An underground American publication called The Resister and claiming to be "the official publication of the Special Forces underground," recently reported that Special Forces in Haiti were working with ousted Haitian officers and members of the disbanded militia known as the FRAPH or Front for the Advancement

and Progress of Haiti. Sgt Norbury, 38, and an 18year Special Forces veteran. denied it. "Not in this area. Maybe somewhere else." But his theory as to the role of American and UN troops here reflected the feelings of many

of his colleagues.
"We're just like a temporary wind blowing through here. While we're here, they can sleep at night. We're basically their security blanket. But democracy's not for everybody. Haitians are going to solve their problems the Haitian way. Always did, and always will. Their way has always been vigilante justice.

"The bottom line is that if Haitians hadn't been reaching our shores on leaky boats, we wouldn't be here. Soon we'll be

"You can only keep a life sup-port system going so long then you have to pull the plug. When we leave here, our only legacy will be the empty MRE (food rations) packets we leave behind," the sergeant said.



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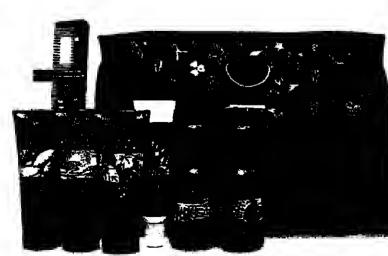
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'Dingo baby' saga may be laid to rest

ROBERT MILLIKEN

After 15 years, several false conclusions and enough media hype to rival the OJ Simpson case. Australia's most celebrated mystery, the disappearance of Azaria Chamberlain, the 'dingo baby', may be resolved

Azaria's parents, Lindy and Michael Chamberlain, bave asked a coroner's court to clear . them of any involvement in the disappearance of their nine week old daughter in 1980. Now divorced, the Chamberlains are expected to attend the court in Darwin today when the coroner delivers his verdict.

Azaria vanished from a tent at Ayers Rock camping ground in the Northern Territory during a family holiday. The Cham-berlains insisted that a dingo, a wild Australian dog, bad snatched the child, and Azaria's body has never been found.

In 1982, after a frenzy of speculation, two coroner's inquiries, and a trial at which forensic witnesses mounted a circumstantial case against the parents, Mrs Chamberlain was found guilty of murdering ber daughter and received a life sentence. Her husband was convicted as an accessory and was released on a good-behaviour bond. The Crown had not put forward a motive for the crime.

When a British tourist fell to his death while climbing Ayers Rock in 1986, rangers sent to retrieve his body found Azaria's matinée jackét lying near by. Mrs Chamberlain had always

maintained that Azaria was wearing such a jacket when she disappeared. With the discovery of this vital clue, the Northern Territory Govern-ment released Mrs Chamberlain and set up a Royal Commission to determine if the Chamberlains had been victims of a miscarriage of justice.

The commission found that a jury would not have convicted them if this evidence had been available. In 1988, the Northern Territory Court of Appeal quashed their convictions: The first inquest, in 1981,

found that a dingo had taken the child. A second inquest, called in 1982 after criticism of the Northern Territory authorities, concluded that Azaria was murdered by a person or persons unknown. That second finding technically still stands, despite the Royal Commission's establishment of a miscarriage of justice. It is this finding that the Chamberlains bave requested the coroner to set aside, and to conclude that Azaria died accidentally after a dingo took ber.

Three years ago, the North-ern Territory government paid the couple £620,000 in compensation, but has never offered them a formal apology. They have also received £120,000 from Kerry Packer, the media magnate, for exclusive magazine and television interviews, as well as undisclosed fees for A Cry in the Dark, the film version of their story starring Meryl Streep and Sam Neill.

But the Chamberlains claim that the money barely covered





Innocent: Lindy Chamberlain (left) has requested that the death of Azaria (right) be ruled accidental. The verdict is expected today Photographs: AF

China's most outspoken dissident faces jail once more

TERESA POOLE

It was November 1978, when posters started appearing on a brick wall in central Peking demanding political reform, that marked the birth of the

"Democracy Wall" movement. Within months, a young elec-trician from the 200, Wei Jingsheng, had made his mark as an outspoken contributor: "We want no more gods and emperors, no more saviours of any kind," he wrote. "Democracy,

freedom and happiness are the 'only goals of modernisation." By March 1979 Mr Wei bad been arrested, and later that year was sentenced in a closed court to 15 years for "counter-

revolutionary" activities. These days the brick wall is long demolished and the pavement is lined instead by a government "Science Popularation" exhibition. Glass-fronted exhibition panels extol the achievements of Chinese women scientists - propaganda left over from Peking's higgest

ever international event, the World Women's Conference in the autumn.

Peking's skyline and China's global status have been transformed by 16 years of economic reform. But some things have not changed. In the city's No 1 Intermediate People's Court this morning, a trial will open with Mr Wei, 46, now accused of trying to overthrow the government Since March

prison term. Nor, despite a court spokesman's promise that the trial would be "open", have any ordinary Chinese, foreign diplomats or journalists been given passes to attend.

Mr Wei's trial will again put the international spotlight on China's judicial system and the government's intolerance of

The name Wei does not stick in the memory of Westerners in 1979 he has spent only six the way Mandela and Sakharov months out of jail, and today is conce did, although he is often likely to receive another long, dubbed the country's "most

famous" dissident. But he has been a constant thorn in the side of the Chinese government for almost two decades.

Mr Wei bas an unlikely counter-revolutionary hackground. He came from a family of Mao loyalists in Anhui province, and was a Red Guard before going to work as an electrician in the Peking Zoo. When the political climate thawed in 1978, he edited a journal called Exploration, and

quickly embraced the Democ-

racy Wall movement.

people must maintain vigilance against Deng Xiaoping's metamorphosis into an autocrat." Mr Wei wrote, prompting his immediate arrest and heavy sentence, much of it spent in solitary confinement.

As well as being an advocate

of democracy, he bluntly re-

jected Deng Xiaoping's policy

of economic modernisation

without political reform, "The

It was not until September 1993 that Mr Wei left prison, released on parole by the government in the hope of winning

the 2000 Olympics for Peking. He immediately renewed his call for democracy and insisted he would not escape abroad. His robust opinions showed no sign of having been weakened by his prison experience.

It was his decision to meet a senior US government human rights official. John Shattuck. which terminated his new-found freedom. Soon after, on I April 1994. Mr Wei was detained, and has not been seen since. Today he may well disappear again, for a very long time.

IN BRIEF Café blast kills 11 in Algeria

Algiers - A car homb exploded yesterday not far from Algeria's largest military hospital. killing tJ people and wounding 35 others. The explosion occurred at a café frequented by mititary personnel from the hospital, security sources said. It was not immediately known whether soldiers or army health-care workers were among the victims. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but suspicion fell on the Armed Islamic Group, the most radical of the Islamic militant factions trying to topple Algeria's government.

Rwandans dismaved

Kigali - Rwandans reacted with dismay vesterday after an international tribunal investigating last year's genocide indicted only eight people for the slaughter of up to one million minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus, Information Minister Jean-Pierre Bizimana said (hat his government was not satisfied with the first indictments announced by the tribunal's Chief Prosecutor Richard Goldstone

PM fighting for life

Athens - Greek premier Andreas Papandreou was fighting for his life in hospital after developing a new infection.

A hospital bullerin said that Papandreou, 76, had heen given a wide range of antibiotics, but had been taken off the respirator which had helped his breathing throughout Monday night.

Kohl escapes bomb

Bonn - A letter bomb addressed to Chancellor Helmut Kohl blew up in an eastern German post office, federal authorities said yesterday. No one was injured and there was

Manila on alert

Manila — Manila police were put on red alert after a left-wing death squad killed a prominent industrialist and a five-yearold boy in what President Fidel Ramos said was a declaration of war on the state. Leonardo Ty, 82, and five-year-old Jeremy Tay Jin Han from Singapore were among four people killed in three ambushes on Monday. The attacks, blamed on the Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB). all involved targets from the Philippines' wealthy Chinese husiness community, which is frequently the victim of kidnappers.

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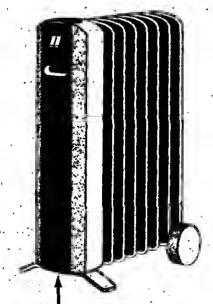
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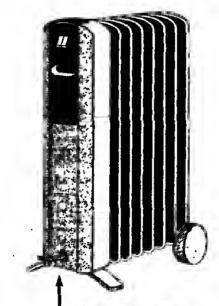
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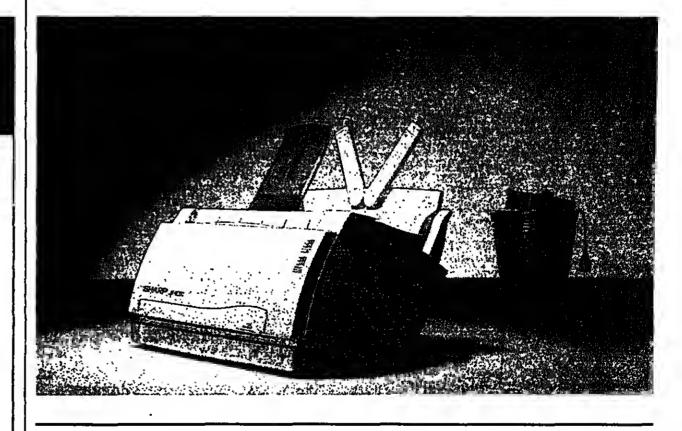
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only (299° it's the same price as an inkiet

and continually recycles toner But this won't affect print quality. In fact, it's better than ever. (Especially the JX-9210 which minute and a rapid first page of only onds, the JX-9200 saves you time as

That's not all. The JX-9200 is also

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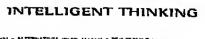
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that's smaller than a sheet of A4 paper.

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Professor

Gillian Rose

Rose's last bequest.

The extraordinary orches-

failure and triumph beyond

Gillian Rose, who will take her place in the lineage of great Jew-

ish women thinkers and of

Middle (1992) and her remark-

able autobiographical fragment Love's Work (1995), which

attention of a larger audience.

consistency right to the end.

Rose: the broken middle

by Kantian assumptions: rigid

divisions of a priori from a pos-

teriori, law from ethics, public

state, nature from freedom.

More precisely than Marx, Heg-el grasped how modernity itself

it is also fated to transgress,

since they are contradictory. In Dialectic Nihilism (1986),

she tried to show bow post-

the same confinement, reduc-

universal to the absolutely in-

post-structuralism and post-

modernism do not truly refuse

origins and ends, but rather "the

middle", or our necessary, ir-

resolvable hesitation between

universal and particular, the one

and the many. Since we are al-

ways "in the middle" we cannot

determine the universe once

and for all even as an antino-

mian lack of rule, nor can we de-

termine the particular abstractly

as the "sheerly different" or "the

In The Broken Middle (1992).

written after her transfer from

Sussex University to a Chair in

Social and Political Thought at

Warwick, this claim is set forth

in detail, and extended into a

critique of more "holy" versions

absolutely other".

The growling cockney Arthur drama The Captive Heart (1946, Mullard took his 6ft 2in bulk starring Michael Redgrave) and and bashed-in nose from the professional boxing ring to televisioo screens and found his greatest fame as he was approaching retirement. Acting achieve and, after several decades as an extra in films and a feed to television comics such as Tony Hancock and Arthur Gilliat comedy The Belles of St Askey, he found it playing a scrounger called Wally Briggs in the situation comedies Romany Jones and Yus My Dear.

Born in 1912 in an area of Islington that he described as the hardest in all of Londoo, Mullard had no fond memories of "the good old days". "I oever think of my childhood with nostalgia," he said. "Anyone of my age who says he does is deceiving himself. They weren't good old days at all. Whatever else change has brought, it means people aren't so poor any more." He had four brothers, one of whom died in infancy.

Mullard left school at 14 with a report that said: "This boy is a born actor." However, facing opposition from his father, he started work as a butcher's boy, and later signed up for the Army. By the time he left three years later, he had found a oew talent as a boxer and was the champion of his regiment.

Back in civvy street, he turned professional in the ring but threw in the towel, after three years and 20 fights, wheo he was knocked out and lost his memory. He then worked as a dance-hall bouncer, rag-andbone man and even an artist's model, until called up for the Second World War. As a sergeant-major in the Royal Artillery, ideas of acting returned to him. "Drilling troops and just being in the Army was like acting to me," he recalled. "It was all an act."

Once peacetime came he looked for an agent and was soon appearing in films as an extra and stuntman, changing his name from Mullord to Mullard because everyone thought he was addressing a peer of the realm wheo he said it.

He made his debut in the Second World War prison-camp

appeared - mostly uncredited - in several dozen pictures, including Oliver Twist (the classic 1948 version starring Alec Guinness), the Oscar-winning success took him 30 years to The Lavender Hill Mob (again starring Alec Guinness, 1951), The Pickwick Papers (1952), the Frank Launder-Sidney Trinian's (1954), the Boulting Brothers' comedy Brothers in Law (starring Ian Carmichael, 1956), The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Runner (starring Tom Courtenay and directed by Tony Richardson, 1962), the cockney comedy Sparrows Can't Sing (based on the Joan Littlewood stage play Sparrers Can't Sing, 1962), the James Bond spoof Casino Royale (1967) and the television spin-off Holiday on the Busses (1973). In Chitry Chira Busses (1973). Chitty Bang Bang (1968), hilled simply as Big Man, Mullard was the victim of the automatic haircutting machine, which left him almost bald; the creation of a cranky inventor played by Dick Van Dyke. His last film appearance was in Adventures of

> By the mid-Fifties, Mullard was in demand both in films and the relatively oew medium of televisioo. When Tony Hancock moved from radio to television with Hancock's Half Hour (1956-63), Mullard became a regular member of the supporting cast, playing everything from policemen to dustmen, alongside John Le Mesurier, Hugh Lloyd, Irene Handl, Warren Mitchell and Kenneth Williams. The programme, scripted by Ray Galton and Alan Simpson, extended the boundaries of television comedy writing and marked a highpoint in the genre.

Plumber's Mate (1978).

Mullard worked with another comic great, Arthur Askey, in The Arthur Askey Show (1961), a six-part sitcom set in 1910 and featuring Askey and June Whitfield as Arthur Pilbeam and his snooty wife Emily, with Mullard and Patricia Hayes playing their neighbours,

By oow established in situation comedy, Mullard took the Beck's death, this couple were



'it was all an act': Muliard with the Marvell Lane Boys Club, London, on a 'sponsored gaol-breek' from Wood Street police station, 1979

early, he said.

Anthony Hayward

Twenty years ago, writes Dick

Vosburgh, Barry Cryer, Peter

Vincent and I were writing the

all-impersonations television

series Who Do You Do? The

show's director/producer Jon Scoffield suddenly told us he'd

booked Arthur Mullard. Our

first reaction was negative in the

extreme. "But he's not an impressionist!" we wailed. "Who

role of Chippy in Vacant Lot (1967), a series written by Jeremy Lloyd and Jimmy Grafton, which featured the actors Bill Fraser and Alfie Bass running the works of Bendlove and Bodium, huilders, decorators, cabinetmakers, funeral directors and cab-drivers.

Switching to children's programmes, Mullard played a ack of all trades in On the Rocks (1969), set in a television station, Seaview Television, transmitting from a lighthouse to the residents of Mumbling Bay and Kipper Cove, But Mullard's most famous

televisioo character was the layabout Wally Briggs, first featured in a single play called Ro-many Jones in 1972, which then returned for four series (1973-74), with Queenie Watts playing his wife Lily. Briggs was an army deserter and a scrounger, who stole from allotments. The programme, with theme music by Roger Whittaker and writers who included the dno of Ronald Wolfe and Ronald Chesney, also starred James Beck and Jo Rowbottom as the

replaced by Jonathan Cecil and Seventies television game show Gay Soper, as a posh husband and wife in the adjacent caravan. Cecil had previously worked with Mullard in one of his rare stage appearances, in The Silent House (1970), at the

Thorndike Theatre, Leather-head, in which he played a

cat-hurglar-turned-butler.

Mullard and Watts's Romany Jones characters were then transplanted by Wolfe and Chesney to a council house an autobiography, Oh Yus, It's and their own programme, Yus My Dear, which ran for two series in 1976. Wally Briggs was lived to the age of 83, Mullard My Dear, which ran for two series in 1976. Wally Briggs was by this time earning good money as a bricklayer on a building site hut struggling to hold on to it, with both his wife Lily and his hrother Benny - played by another cockney comic, Mike Reid - trying to get their hands

Capitalising oo his stardom. Mullard teamed up in 1978 with the comedienne Hylda Baker to record a spoof version of John Travolta and Olivia Newtoo's hit "You're the One That I Want", from the film Grease. The single made the Top Briggs' equally workshy oeighbours in a caravan park. After on Top of the Pops. The actor was also a regular guest on the cares?" snapped Scoffield. December 1995.

"He's funnyl" And indeed he Celebrity Squares.
Mullard's wife, Flo, did not was - Arthur's "impersoo-ations" were the high-point of live to see him find fame. She He would announce solemn-

died from an overdose of sleep-"Now here is my impression ing tablets in 1961 after suffering from polio and meningitis, of the late laminated Charles Laughton in The Hunchback of as well as mental illness. Notre Dame!" Whereupon he Earlier this year, Mullard was still working, on voiceovers for commercials, and continued would turn his back and make a series of elaborate arm moveto live in a council maisonette ments to suggest that his face was being utterly transformed. He would then turn around in his native Islington. He wrote again looking eractly the same and declaim, occelless to say, in his own voice: "The bells! The hells! They're drivin' me always bemoaned the fact that bleedin' mad!' it took so long for him to find stardom. The tragedy of my life is, 1 was born 20 years too

Also treasured is his uncantry recreation of "That wellmown Swedish bint - Greeta Garbol" After the same preamble he would bellow "I want

to be alooe. So piss off?"
One of the BBC satire shows cast him equally memorably in the role of Gertrude Stein, his "A rose is a rose is a bleedin' rose" brought down the house.

Arthur Mullord (Arthur Mullard), actor: born London 19 Septem ber 1912; married (two sons, one

Lavinia Norfolk

Your obituary of Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk [by Richard Griffiths, 12 December] paid tribute to her career on the turf. She and the late Duke were also closely involved in many great moments in British ceremoniife, writes Hugo Vickers.

In 1937 she was one of the four duchesses who held the canopy over Queen Elizabeth (now the Queen Mother) at her sacred anointing. Of these only Mary Roxburghe now survives. In 1953 she spent days rehearsing aspects of the present Queen's Coronation as her stand-in. 1 once interviewed the Duchess and all she said was "I wore what she wore". But in the 1993 Yorkshire Television documentary Days of Majesty she was more forthcoming:

I had to be ready to come to the abbey every single morning at about half past nine, 10 o'clock. I had to take the part of the Queen. So whoever was reheaving, they always had something to do with what the Queen was doing... The crown its self was very heavy and one had to make sure that it fitted absolutely

one's hands were full of other thing one's names were rull of other times and it felt like falling off the whole time, so you had to tell whoever was putting it on to put it on a little bit forward or a little bit back.

When the Queen placed the collar of the Order of the ders in June 1990, it was not, therefore, the first time that she had worn one. The Duchess was the first Lady Companion of the Order and duly took her place in the procession, wearing a long Garter hive dress under robes. Unfortunately she tripped in the quire at the 1992 ceremony, suffering a much publicised nosebleed. She did not appear again.

The Duchess was a safe establishment choice for the first Lady of the Garter, meaning that Baroness Thatcher followed in her wake rather than setting a precedent.

When the Duke was alive since he was Senior Knight, they would get into car no 1 for the return ride up the hill. When she joined the Order, she had to wait her turn and enter car no 23, the penalty of membership of a club, however elevated.

to a pure ahistorical respect for the other in opposition to all At a quarter past six last Sat-urday evening, a motley group of ex-lovers, philosophers, the-ologians, family, graduate stu-dents and friends arrived at "totalisations" For Gillian Rose this ne-

glect of the moment of universality is tantamount to a faisc Coventry Hospital to witness the attempt to heal the "brokenreception of Gillian Rose into ness" of the middle. For while the Anglican Church. As it she denounced a facile Kantian turned out, they were hours late resignatioo to dualisms, she for this event, and 10 minutes equally insisted that these dutoo late ever to talk with her alisms were essential to the again. At a christening party that modern state and modern aconwas now also a wake, they lis-tened, numbed, as the Bishop omy, and could never be merely thought away in abstraction. of Coventry read to them lines of Dante's Paradiso, which were To try to do so is to remain "a beautiful soul", to doom oneself always to accentuate only one side of the divide - ethics tration of events, magnetism, against law for example and so to contribute to the failure evident in this death, inworsening of our predicament. tegrated it seamlessly into a life.

Instead - and here Rose's realism places her on the side of a radical social democracy - one must persist with and defend life of astonishing philosophic eros and intensity, culminating in her masterpiece The Broken great British Hegelians, lived a unions, local government, the civil service, the teamed professions of arts, law, architecture, education and medicine. brought her work to the This passionately espoused

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resistance to both modest pur-The child of multiple marital ism (the market) and anticonfusions, Rose was born in 1947 and passed through Eal-ing Grammar School to Oxford. In New York and Germany she modernist Utopian resistance, is then upheld within The Broken Middle by an entire exis-tential credo: one is to trust received her training in the reason, even though it is withtraditions of Hegel and the Frankfurt school. Her pubout foundations and partial. Hence reason must be conlished work then developed a joined with faith, faith even in series of positions with great the rationality of an infinite which must elude our grasp, faith therefore in perhaps a full religious sense. Such reasoo with faith allows us to take the risk of action, which is always a risk of power and even of vi-olence against the other. For without such risk there can be oo generosity and oo exercise of desire, whether for ideas or

the goodness of persons. Gillian Rose's own life was full to bursting with such risk, such generosity, such eros, pow-er and violence. She did oot escape the taint of ambiguity, but then her own credo refuses such escape and demands that we interrogate with suspicioo apparently more untainted goodness.

In Hegel Contra Sociology (1981) she demonstrated how sociology remained confined She bequeaths us difficulties and mysteries. The thinker who denounces the modern Jewish retreat from law in the name of from private, the economic the formalism of love was finally from the political, church from led to embrace Christianity. We can be sure that this embrace was both difficult and dialectical, and reflect on such produced these divisions which matters as the Incarnation of God in history, and the Protestant acceptance of the contradictory intersection of church and state, individual piety and structuralists remained within public duty. An avowal perhaps, of an inescapably modern mode ing the factual to the arbitrary of law. Equally, the thinker who denounced any premature imposition of power, and the or even absolute healing of the middle, in her last, as yet undifferent. She contends that published writings, which take a more "Platonie" turn, denounces the post-modern en-

> denial of any consummation. At the threshold of her own, eternal consummation, Gillian Rose leaves us to reflect further on the cooditions, both political and metaphysical, under which healing may at last supersede rupture.

throning of postponement, and

John Milbank

Gillian Rosemary Stone (Gillian Rose), philosopher: born London 20 September 1947; Lecturer/ Reader in Sociology, Sussex University 1974-89; Professor of Social and Political Thought, Warwick University 1989-95; died Coventry 9 December 1995.

John Gillett

John Gillett was one of the best-sist them in their research. He rector Yasujiro Ozu was crucial known personalities on the became a regular contributor to to his obtaining funding for his world's film festival circuit both National Film Theatre films in Japan at a critical time as a critic/programmer and as a friend to countless filmmakers, established or un- Keaton to British audiences, cinema showed itself in many awe because of his extraordinary knowledge of world cinema. Gillett was a walking encyclopaedia of film knowledge, whether it be the correct on numerous seasous, respectspelling of the cameraman's name in the Albanian/Soviet coproduction Skanderberg or the name of an actor in a lesser Japanese feature.

Gillett was born in Ealing, west London, in 1925. After husioess college he worked on a local newspaper until his deep interest in film secured him a job at the British Film Academy in the days of Roger Manvell. It was Manvell who in November 1952 introduced him to the British Film Institute where he remained for over 44

Even in those early days staff and visitors alike relied on Gillett's film knowledge to as-

programming. In December in his career.

1967 he reintroduced Buster But Gillett rospectives on the work of such film-makers as Billy Wilder. John Ford and Satyajit Ray. He became a regular collaborator ed for his accuracy - for which his name was a byword. "Has

this text been checked with

John?" became a routine question. John Gillett will be remembered best for his passion for Japanese cinema, reflected in scasoo upon seasoo at the NFT since 1982. In June 1995 he received the double bonours of appointment as MBE and the Japanese order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Rosette, an award offered to few foreigners. It was Gillett who had been largely responsible for creating an awareness of Japan-

But Gillett's interest in world edge: early Russian and Georgian cinema, Hungarian cinema and the work of Hollywood giants of the 1930s and 1940s were other areas of special interest. Gillett left no living rela-

tions and few worldly goods. This was not because be couldn't afford them, but rather that they would get in the way of getting to the cinema or his other love, the concert hall. The NFT and the library of the BFI were his home and his worldwide family - critics, filmmakers, writers - was of his own creation.

Gillett was not only intent oo ensuring that film information was correct, but he was equalat the right sound level and always in focus. He was the

Anniversaries

Births: Maximilien de Béthune, Duc

de Sully, statesman, 1560; William Drummond of Hawthornden, poet,



Gillett: a walking encyclopaedia

scourge of faulty film projec tionists. The last words he spoke to me at the charming and friendly Silent Film Festival at Pordenoné, in Italy, where he was takeo ill, were: "1 thought the live accompaniment to Vertov's Man with a Movie Camera was a trifle loud and that the focus of the Henry King sileot feature was oot good."

Lesley Hardcastle

by intent in ensuring that films John Gillett, film critic, pro-were shown at the right speed, grammer and historian: born 28 grammer and historian: born 28 September 1925; MBE 1995; right, otherwise It could easily have died London 7 December 1995. toppled off. It was so heavy and as

of postmodernism, which appeal Rescission of bankruptcy orders justified

A change of attitude of the petitioning creditor to the makof other creditors, justified the rescission of a bankruptcy

The Court of Appeal allowed appeals by the applicants, Anthony Edward Frich and Janet Margaret Fitch, from Mr Justice Chadwick's refusal to rescind bankruptcy orders

made against Mr Fitch, a charbankrupt tered accountant, and his wife. Mr Fitch's statement of af-

bankrupt. Anthony Mann QC (Meade-King, Bristol) for Mr and Mrs Fitch; Stephen Moverley (Treasury Solicitor) for the ruptcy order against Mr Fitch Official Receiver.

Lord Justice Millett said that section 375 allowed the court Mr Fitch in partnership with to review and rescind or vary

Mrs Fitch was involved in the a order made by a court of coplied to any order made in the exercise of the hankruptcy jurisdiction. An application under section 375 must be based on a change in circumstances since the order was made or, more rarely, on the discovery

> that the bankrupcty orders were rightly made. They based their application on the fact that circumstances had changed. They did oot rely on the mere fact that the petitioning creditor had changed its mind, but on the fact that a large body of creditors, including the petitioning creditor, supported the rescission of the bankruptcy orders and that none of the known creditors

If that had been the position

opposed it.

the only means of giving effect to the creditors' wishes that the hankruptcies should be discontinued.

There was no evidence from which the judge could properly conclude that Mr and Mrs Fitch intended to embark on a course of deception if the bankruptcy orders were rescinded. Mr Fitch was acting as an intermediary. His own creditworthiness was not directly

The judge exercised his discretion on an erroneous basis and the court must exercise it itself. The statutory discretion was unlimited. The inquiry on which the court embarked was whether the circumstances justified the rescission of the bankruptcy order, not whether they were sufficiently close to an informal scheme of arrangement. Re Izod [1898] 1 QB 24, as distinguished in Re a debtor (no 12 of 1970) [1971] 1 WLR

The discretion must be exercised with caution and only in exceptional circumstances. The circumstances in the present case were exceptional and justified the rescission of the or-

Ying Hui Tan, Barrister

Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

BIRTHS

HAYWARD: To Sally and Charles, on 5 December 1995, at Liverpool Women's Hospital, Angus William, a brother for Georgina and Eleanor.

DEATHS

EUSTACE: Ba (née Belloc, 20/1/30), swiftly, in London, 11 December, Re-quiem, Westminster Cathedral Crypt, Monday 18 December, 3pm. No

MARSHALL: David Soul. First Chief Minister of Singapore, died at home in Singapore on Tuesday 12 Decem-ber, aged 87 years.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Prince of Villen, Provident, Business at the Community, visits the Ronthies-Be-low Centre, London E3; visits St. James's Hall, London Ni; hout a reception for the Bristol Center Help Centre at St. James's Palace, busts the 10th Anniversary Celebrations of the Contentially Enterprise Awards at St. James's Palace; no President, the Prince's Youth Business That, opens the new treat shop in the King s Whit Stopping Centre. London SWA; and uttends the Urban Village Forum Cartenan Meeting at Leighton House, London W14. The Princess Rayal, President, Anhual Israilly Buss, attends the Princess Rayal Pacision, Companies, at Princess Rayal President, Anhual Israilly Buss, attends the Princess Rayal and the Goards Chapelle Wellington Bussellon Prud at the Goards Chapel, Wellington Bussellon Prud on the Goards Chapel, Wellington Bussellon I Missish House, Lundon EC. The Duke of Goateester, Phiron, the Westminister Society, attends a reception at Missish House, Lundon EC. The Goal of Boate Steep, Patron, the Westminister Society, attends a reception at Missish House, Lundon EC. The Goal of Boate Steep, Patron, Lundonsian Research Final, was the Cellibric Development. United Colleges Control Colleges and Colleges Steep, Tarford. ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS hidge, Manchester, and opens the One-Stop sense Centre for the Disabled, Sale, Trafford man Michael of Kent, Patron, aftends the RKS Ball at the Hilton Hotel, London Wi.

Changing of the Guard

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.D. Donald and Miss M. Fuilbuchi

ibuchi, of Fukuoka, Japan.

Birthdays The Aga Khan, 59; Sir Terence Beckett, former Director General, CBI, 72; Mr Howard Breaton, play-wright, 53; General Arnold Brown, former leader, Salvation Army, 82; Lord Bullock, historian, 81; Mr Jim Davidson, comedian, 4t; Sir Brian Fall, former ambassador to the Russian Federation, 58; Mr John Francombe, broadcaster and former jockey, 43; Mr Walter Guven, chief constable, Wiltshire, 57; Miss Anouskn Hempel, actress, hotelier and designer, 54; Dr Douglas Latto, surgeon and gynaecologist, 82; Mr Robert Lindsay, actor, 46; Professor Sir William McCrea, astronomer, 91; Mr Alec Monk, former chief executive, Tri-Delta Corporation, 53; Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive, Lloyds Bank, 64; Mr Christopher Plummer, actor, 66; Sir Humphrey Prideaux, former chairman, Morland and Co, 80; Sir Robin Renwick, former ambassador to the United States of America, 58: Mr George Shultz, former US Secretary of State, 75; Professor Geoffrey Sins, former Vice-Chancellor, Sheffield University, 69; Maj-Geo Sir David Thorne, Director-General, Commonwealth Trust, 62; Sir Laurens van der Post, writer and explorer 89; Mr Dick Van Dyke, actor, 70; General Sir Peter Whiteley, former Commander-in-Chief, Allied Porces Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces Northern Europe, 75; Miss Paula

The engagement is announced be-tween Colin, elder son of Mr and Mrs Colin Donald, of Stirling, and Mami, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ishio Fu-

ese film history in Britain. His

championing of the Japanese di-

1585; Heinrich (Harry) Heine, poet and journalist, 1797; Ernst Werner von Siemens, inventor, 1816; Sir Joseph Noel Paton, painter, 1821; Franz Lenbach, painter, 1836; Lu-Franz Lenbach, painter, 1836; Lu-cien-Germain Guitry, actor, 1860. Deaths: Maimonides (Moses ben Maimon), philosopher, 1204; Donatello (Donato de Betto Bardi), sculptor. 1466; François Viete de la Bigotière, advocate and mathematician, 1603: Charles de La Fosse, painter, 1716; The Rev John Strype, historian, 1737; Dr Samuel Johnson, lexicographer, 1784; William Cakraft, shoemaker and hangman, 1879; Wassily Kandinsky, abstract painter, 1944; "Grandma Moses" (Mrs Thomas Salmon Moses), primitive painter, 1961. On this day: the first assembly of the Council of Trent opened, 1545; Sir Francis Drake left Plymouth on his voyage around the world, 1577; New Zealand was discovered by Abel Janszoon Tasman, 1642: the Confederate forces under Robert E. Lee were victorious at the Battle of Fredericksburg, 1862; in the United States, Italo Marcioni patented the first ice-cream cone, 1903; a spell of extreme cold weather killed over 200 people in the United States, 1960. Today is the Feast Day of St Aubert of Cambrai, St Eustratus of Sebastea, St Judocus or Josse, St Lucy and St Othilia or Odilia.

Lectures

National Callery: Colin Wiggins, "Worldly Goods (iii): Eeckhout,

Wilcox, actress, 46; Mr Brian Wilson
MP, 47.

**The Gallery: Mary Beal, "Paradise Under Threar: English art of the Anniversaries

**The Gallery: Mary Beal, "Paradise Under Threar: English art of the Company 1920s", 1pm.

British Museum: Jacques Paul, "Herm and Term: as architectural symbols", 1.15pm. Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC2: Professor Susan

Appointments Mr Peter Marshall, to be Ambassador to the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria. Mr Michael Llewellyn Smith, to be Ambassador to Athens.

Mr John Edward O'Hare, to be full-time Taxing Master. Mr Shamoon Somjee, to be a Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate. Mrs Justice Arden, to be chairman of the Law Commission. Professor Alan Watson, to be Deputy Chairman of the English-Speaking

Union. Mr Charles Barwell, Baroness Hooper, Baroness Smith and Mr Peter Sparling, to be Governors of the Eng-lish-Speaking Union.

Church appointments The Ven Michael Stanley Till, Archdeacon of Canterbury and Canon Residentiary of Canterbury Cathedral, to be Dean of Winches-

Cathedral, diocese of London, to be Suffragan Bishop of Stafford, diocese The Right Rev Richard Hawldon, Suffragan Bishop of Plymouth, diocese of Exeter, to be Suffragan Bishop of

of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Millett Sir Iain Glidewell); 15 November 1995

ing of a bankruptcy order, supported by a substantial body order.

against them. Bankruptcy orders were

fairs showed a deficiency of some £200,000 against secured liabilities and unsecured liabilites of £60,000. Mr and Mrs Fitch applied for the orders to be rescinded under section 375(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986. The petitioning creditor and many other creditors supported the application, believ-Canon Christopher Hill, Canon Residentiary and Precentor of St Paul's ng that there was a serious risk that the existence of a bank-

> would prejudice the recovery of a substantial asset for the

LAW REPORT

13 December 1995

setting up of a business venture ordinate jurisdiction. It ap-from which they would be entitled to introductory commission of £112,500, £150,000 consultancy fees over a twoyear period and success fees of £811,000 of which £248,890 was already due. Nothing would be paid if the oegotiations to set up the venture failed. The creditors were persuaded that the successful completion of the venture depended on Mr and Mrs Fitch not being known to be

Mr Justice Chadwick refused the application on the grounds that the petitioning creditor's change of attitude did not derive from oew matters which were not available at the previous hearing and that the application involved the court in approving the deception that Mr Fitch was not a

of further evidence. Mr and Mrs Fitch accepted

when the bankruptcy orders were made, the petition would have been dismissed. The fact that the underlying circumstances which led the creditors to support the rescission of the bankruptcy orders had been known at that time did not prevent their change of attitude from being both new and rel-

1212 did not lay down a rule of law fettering the discretion.

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Fig. 3....

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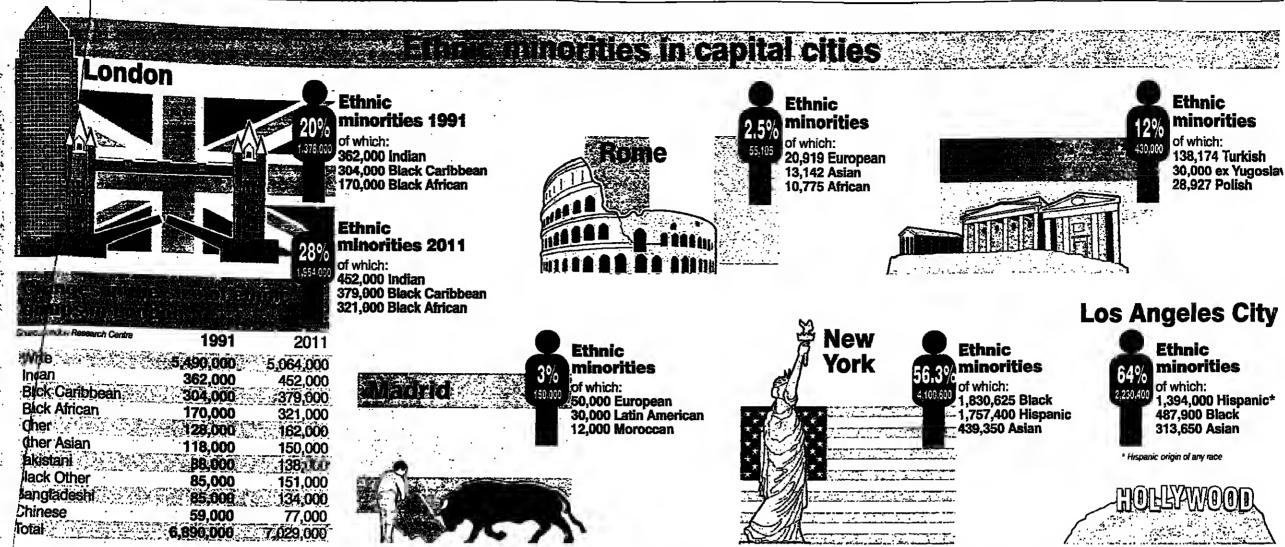
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news analysis



London: Europe's new ethnic melting pot

the capital will be composed of ethnic minorities.

recent.

ondon has always been a cosmopolitan city, home to wave after wave of immigrants who in time have become Londoners, providing the mix that arguably makes London the most cosmopolitan city in the

There were Irish and Jewish people in London in the 12th Century. Greek Street in Soho takes its name from an Orthodox community there in the 17th century, while the East End has played host to seventeenth century Hugenots, eighteenth century Irish and 19thcentury Jews before becoming the Bengali community it is

And work by the London Research Centre published this week, based on the 1991 census, shows the process is still at work. From 20 per cent of the population now, ethnic minorities are projected in just 15 years' time to make up 28 per cent of the capital's population.

Two London boroughs, Brent minorities become the majority, their present 45 per cent and 44 per cent rising to 52 per cent and : 61 per cent respectively.
But in every London borough

and Sutton. Each of these onter boroughs at present has only a 5 or 6 per cent ethnic minority population. But each of which will see a similar 40 per cent rise to the rest of London, taking them close to 10 per cent.

The increase is almost entirely the result of the natural age structure, not the result of higher birth rates or continued immigration, according to the London Research Centre. Those groups which will enjoy the highest rate of growth at present have the lowest age profile. According to Herman Ouseley, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, these changes represent both a challenge and an opportunity. By 2011, well over half London's ethnic minorities will be British born, a proportion that will continue to rise sharply as the wave of Caribbean and Asian immigrants from the 1950s and 1960s dies off.

nature, however, comes not immigration. In 1991, the census showed there were communities more than 10,000 strong in London from 34 countries. They ranged from the numbers will rise, from Bexmore than 250,000 Irish to ley and Bromley to Richmond 133,000 people born in EU

Hong Kong, almost 14,000 from Mauritius, 21,000 from Poland, 16,000 from Malaysia, a similar number from Iran and 20,000 from Turkey. Not all of these will be British citizens and London's role as a key financial and trading centre has contributed to its ethnic mix - bringing in the Arabs in the 1970s and the Japanese and growing ranks of Europeans in the 1980s and 1990s - combined with Britain's traditional, if steadily more restrictive, role as

London's cosmopolitan ethnic make-up, however, has indeed come from New Commonwealth immigration, starting almost 50 years ago when the Empire Windrush docked m 1948 with the first Caribbean immigrants brought over to boost Britain's labour force. In assessing how well the

countries, 32,000 Americans, 50,000 Cypriots, almost 12,000 from Vietnam, 18,000 from Research Centre, and Chris Myant, a spokesman for the

Commission on Racial Equal-

ity, strive for a balance.

On one level the capital has dapted remarkably well. Only briefly in the 1950s in Notting Hill has there been anything in London that could fairly be called race riots: the 1980s riots in Brixton and at Blackwater Farm having causes far more complex than race alone. None the less, immigration initially produced the growth in intolerance that almost every

wave of immigrants has faced. a baven for refugees. The most dramatic engine of Its peaks were symbolised by the recent change in London's Enoch Powell's "rivers of blood" speech in 1968 and the rowth of the National Front in the late 1970s and early 1980s. But as legislation progressively restricted immigration, governments of both colours began to take positive action to promote good race relations with the result that London

capital has coped, Anne Page, now has a record far better than chief executive of the London probably any other European probably any other European city, where in most cases mass immigration has been far more

> "The reason, I think, is that we deliberately faced the issues after the growth of intolerance of the 1950s and 1960s," Anne Page, the London Research Centre's chief executive says, defining the passage of the 1976 Race Relations Act as the crucial moment in that.

"As a result, London today enjoys a rich mix of people and culture unparalleled in Europe, and an atmosphere of racial harmony, compared to its own recent past and possibly to other large cities in Europe," she says. Chris Myant points not just

to the immense range of restaurants and shops reflecting flavours and cultures from around the world but whole ethnic shopping centres from Soho's Chinatown to Southall's Indian markets that are an

Nicholas Timmins looks at London's changing profile intrinsic part of London life, as is the Notting Hill Carnival, a uniquely Afro-Caribbean event among black Caribbeans, there were half the managers there would have been if there was no that draws in a vastly wider range of the population than Afro-Caribbeans alone. That,

he says, "is very different from the odd Chinese or Japanese shop. These are real communities that are part of London and it is something that gives us great confidence and hope for the future." There remains, he says, how-

ever, a darker side, one of unequal opportunities and uneven achievement, fuelled continuing discrimination. There is a seemingly permanent undertow of racial attacks and violence in parts of London. Employment opportunities still vary widely by race. Among 16- to 24-year-olds, the Labour Force Survey showed last year that 60 per cent of black males were unemployed. a rate approaching three times that for whites. Average weekly

A new report suggests that within 15 years almost one third of are just under £400 a week against not much more than half that figure for the ethnic minorities. And while a black and Asian middle class has emerged in growing numbers there are wide variations among the ethnic groups. The 1991 census showed that

> employment difference between ethnic groups: the figure for the professions being a third. By contrast, among Indians the proportion in the professions was higher than expected. although managerial numbers were relatively low. The professions employed almost twice as many Chinese as might be expected. Bangladeshis, particularly, were over-represented among unskilled workers. And despite considerable considerable efforts, the ethnic minorities remain under-represented across wide swathes of city life. not just in professions and top management. The Metropolitan Police, already policing a city a fifth of whose population is from the ethnic minority still has only around 1.5 per cent black and Asian officers.

earnings for whites in London achieve equal opportunity, the gets it right, their segregation.

continued growth of London's ethnic minority population, however, is surely less threatening to the white population now than the original immigration of the 1950s and 1960s. Familiarity has bred mutual tolerance. The National Front and British National Party, which once had their bases firmly in London's inner city, now seem to do better in Bexley where ethnic minorities still make up a mere six per cent of

the population. In an increasingly global world, London's cultural and linguistic diversity can be seen as a key competitive advantage. if only the capital has the wit to use it. "Britain's ethnic minorities are an irreversible part of the social, cultural and eco-nomic well-being of London," Mr Ouseley argues, "Employers in London have the opportunities to be the envy of the world with such diversity".

With more inter-marriage. more mixed communities. more ethnically mixed children and more diversity. London is set in the 21st century to become a new type of city for Europe - one more like the immigrant cities of the United If there is a long way to go to States, but without, if London

Peter York, management consultant, Eighties' style guru and co-inventor of the Sloane Ranger, has at last found a way of recycling all his insights from the past decade. In a forthcoming BBC series he claims that we are all nostalgic for the Eighties, despite its more recent reputation as a period that bother to reply," he says. The subject? glorified selfishness and excess, and pandered to right-wing market dogma But York also has plenty to say

about the defining features of the Nineties. Tony Blair, he tells me, is "pure Nineties man", because he has learnt from the Eighties and is prepared to say so. Then there is the way information technology has penetrated the sensibilities of the chattering classes - "IS months ago you would never have heard them talking about the Internet". And lastly, we have Sixties revivalism. "Seriously young, seriously cute girls wear short skirts and long boots. The men are eginning to wear sharp suits. It's a isitive, smart, youthful look." None of this washes with

Waldemar Januszczak, who was moved to write a vitriolic piece in the Sunday Times about the series: "Peter York appears to have spent the past five years in formaldehyde His husiness was selling nothing as something.... His suits might cost him £2,000, but they still cannot disguise the sad gait of a door-to-door salesman..." and on and on. York is baffled. "What I thought

was particularly unfair was that the Sunday Times did not state Jamszczak's day jnh, given the obvious conflict of interest with the BBC."

lanuszczak is commissioning arts edior at Channel 4. And, curiously, York recalls being asked in the summer to front a programme for Clannel 4, "Since I was already sened up with the BBC I did not



Karl Watkin, the Newcastle businessman who yesterday bought the Tyne Theatre and Opera House in his home city for an undisclosed multi-million pound sum, looks likely to persuade the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company to move to Newcastle from Birmingham. "It is our intention," says Mr Watkin, "to develop the European centre for bourgeois-populist opera in Newcastle."

What, pray, is bourgeois-populist opera? Apparently, the phrase is the invention of D'Oyly Carte's chairman, Sir Michael Bishnp, who also chairs the bourgeois-populist British Midland Airways. "The phrase is a new one and not a known operatic genre," said a D'Oyly Carte spokesperson, a little uncomfortably. "I know bourgeois could be taken as an insult, but it's a way of saying we cross bridges."

The bourgeois-populist bridge-builders. WS Gilbert could, no dnubt, have got a lyric out of that. I will print the offerings of *Independent* readers who fancy themselves the very model of a modern bourgeoispopulist hridge-builder, and can supply Eagle Eye with a suitably cutting Gilbertian lyric.

The London Evening Standard's front page this week showed this picture (right) in connection with the murdered headmaster Philip

Lawrence. It was headlined: "A mourner kneels in silence by the floral tributes outside the gate of St George's School." Not quite. If you look closely, you can see a notebook a tool which identifies the "mourner" as the Mail on Sunday reporter Tanya Reed, who works two floors up from the Standard's offices.

Maureen Hicks, the rejected Conservative candidate for Stratfordupon-Avon, claims bitterly that she fell victim to a "blue-rinse mafia" of men. The blue-rinse epithet is always flung at ladies of a certain age and of a certain political disposition, but research by Eagle Eve shows that

it could not be more inappropriate. In fact, none of the women on the 23-strong selection committee has a blue rinse. But more damning than this to Ms Hick's testimony is the



fact that the blue rinse is fast becoming extremely trendy. Daniel Galvin, hairdresser to the Princess of Wales, among others, tells me that he is giving that untably fashionable pop star and non-Conservative voter Cher a blue rinse. "She wanted a dark-blue rinse to get a navy-blue sheen to her dark hair," he says proudly. Whisper it not in Stratford-upou-Avou.

i am perturbed by the results of a new survey sponsored by Durex. It reveals that while 20 per cent of males believe office Christmas parties have a good chance of leading to casual sex, nnly 1 per cent of women share their opinion. Disturbingly, last year's figures were 13 per cent for males and 3 per cent for females.

I asked a professor of statistics for his conclusions. Combining a regression analysis of this year's figures with extrapolation of last year's, he came up with some alarming implications. If the figures are correct, he says, we are forced, within a 2 per cent margin of error, to one of the following conclusions: I) 17 per cent of males are

ncapable of learning from experience: 2) 12 per cent of women suffer from chronic alcohol amnesia; 3) women outnumber men at office parties by a factor in excess of four to

4) homosexual males outnumber heterosexual by almost 10 to one;
5) I per cent of females are

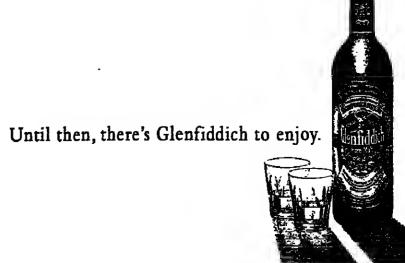
phennmenally promiscuous.

The party Eagle Eye wants to attend is the one patronised by all the above categories, where hordes nf chronic alcoholic amnesiac women dance the night away with ever diminishing numbers of willing chaps

Eagle Eye







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No big gestures please, Ken

Inday will he the first time the Chan-L cellor and the Governor of the Bank of England have met since the Budget. After failing to deliver huge tax cuts last muuth. Kenneth Clarke is under poliucal pressure to cut interest rates instead.

Économic evidence has been mounting in favour of such a cut. Several factors suggest the economy is weak and in need of a boost. Economic growth and inflation are both lower than expected. Manufacturing industry looks fragile. Export markets dun't look promising. The US and Germany face a slowdown and are likely to cut their interest rates in the next few months. The gloomiest economists even argue that Britain is heading hack into recession and should cut its own interest rates as far and as fast as possible.

As always, however, there are count-less other economists who take a different view. Down at the Bank of England, they are worried that inflation might be about to pick up. They fear that we could be set for an upward spiral in wage settlements next year. If this is right, inflation loums. Cutting interest

rates now would only fuel price rises. The trouble is that no one knows who is right, Ecommists are picking their way through a mire of conflicting evidence. We could be on the hrink of a hoom or on the verge of collapse. Worse, policy changes that Ken Clarke and Eddie Genrge decide tuday will not bave their full impact on the economy for about two years.

Faced with this uncertainty, what advice should Eddie give, and what action should Ken take?

The Bank clearly feels hruised by its encounter with the Chancellor in the summer. Eddie George called for an interest rate increase. Kenneth Clarke resisted and turned out, against the odds, to be right. The combination of being ignored and being wrong bas damaged the Governor's credibility. As a result Mr George will be tempted to tone down his remarks and avoid any

This would he a serious mistake. The Bank of England is responsible for watching inflation like a hawk, resisting short-term political pressures, and advising the Government on how to meet its inflation target. It would be far more damaging to the Governor's credibility if he was thought to be second-guessing the politicians than if he were to be overruled once more.

It is the Chancellor who will make the final decision. Mr Clarke would be foolish to make large cuts in interest rates until we are sure that wages won't esca-late. However, should interest rates in Germany or the US fall in the new year. then there would certainly be a case for following these with cuts of our own.

In the Budget, Mr Clarke gave voters a taste of the tax cuts they wanted without jeopardising the economy or the public finances. The Chancellor showed admirable pulitical self-restraint in putting the national interest hefore the party interest.

He could do the same with interest rates. A small cut in interest rates now - perhaps a quarter of a point - is likely to have little impact on the risk of inflation while making a political gesture in the direction of a higger cut next year. That would give Mr Clarke time to see which way the economy is really going.

is the problem really inflation or

Finger points at the **National Lottery**

The Nineties helong to Richard Bran-son. This is his decade. Consumers want not only top-quality products: they also require them to be morally clean. Mr Branson is one of the few husiness leaders to have recognised this necessity. It is in this context that he has taken

National Lottery. His reputation for bonest dealing lends special authority and credence to his allegation that he was offered and refused a hribe to drop his plans to hid for the National Lottery. He has performed a public service hy

hringing these allegations - against GTECH, the US part-owner of Camelot - out into the open. These claims must be investigated. But Peter Davis, head of Oflot, the National Lottery watchdog, is clearly the wrong person for the task. He has denied Mr Branson's claim that he was tipped off about the alleged hribc. Name the less his credibility is already under question.

An independent investigation should be established by Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, to clarify three issues. First, it would examine whether a hribe was in fact offered to Mr Branson. Second, it would ask whether Oflot knew about the allegation and, if it was aware of Mr Branson's claim, why it failed to act. If Mr Branson did indeed inform Oflot about the alleged hrihe. then Mr Davis is clearly not up to his

Know what I hate worst in the world at Christmas time?"

said the man next to me in the pub.

"I'll tell you what I hate worst at

Christmas time. It's getting all those

Christmas cards from firms you've

done a little husiness with, all signed

by everyone in the office. You know,

small charity cards with five nr eight

names on, all signed by Tracey, Jim. Roger, Sue, Dave, Wayne, Hazel..." The man in the puh, whose name

was actually Pete, which is why he

hadn't included Pete in the list of

mundane names, trailed away in

that?" asked his companion, a cheery

thought of all these office workers

getting round the table one morn-

ing, signing 200 cards in a row, not

knowing who any of them are going

to, just automatically dishing out

Christmas cheer, just signing their

name over and over again. Mandy,

Mandy, Mandy, Mandy ...

and then a week later, us getting the

card, and we're meant to say, 'Oh,

how nice, Excelsior Office Supplies

have sent us a card!', but we don't,

we don't even say to the wife as a

joke, 'Oh, look, we've had a card

woman despite being his wife.

"What's so depressing about

"Well, I just find it depressing, the

job and should consider his position. The third issue that must be tackled is the evidently cosy relationship between Mr Davis and Camelot. The

regulator has denied any impropriety in taking flights in a private jet belonging to GIECH. He is, however, yet to give on those running and regulating the a full explanation of bow and why he took these free trips. We await this with much interest. The National Lottery is a huge generalor of revenue for the public purse,

charities and those who operate it. It must be publicly accountable and shown to be above suspicion. Yet at the moment, there is no guarantee that the Government is prepared to take its responsibility seriously. Only Mr Branson's determination to have his day in court seems certain to flush out the

Clearly. Mr Branson's lone stand is, for him, also a hrilliant commercial strategy, for it is likely to enhance his reputation as a husiness leader of integrity. He also has personal reasons for taking on those who run the National Lottery: he would dearly love to have won the contract himself.

Regardless of these personal factors behind the Branson crusade, the Virgin tycoon has raised issues that require urgent inquiry. It is time that Mrs Bottomley pointed a very quizzical finger at those behind the National Lottery.

Sally and Binky', we just say, 'Why

on earth do husinesses waste their

money on this token gesture,

because they're not getting a card

There was a pause after this low-level tirade, until Charlie chipped in

and said: "Well, he's certainly right

about the names. I get some of these

cards and they're always signed by

people called Rog and Mandy and

Hazel and Phil. You never get peo-

ple called Clytemnestra or Phoebe or

Cecil or Noel. They're always ordi-

nary names, like Bob and Carol and

a woman called Mrs Minter, who

wasn't the sort of woman you'd like

to know the first name of, "when that

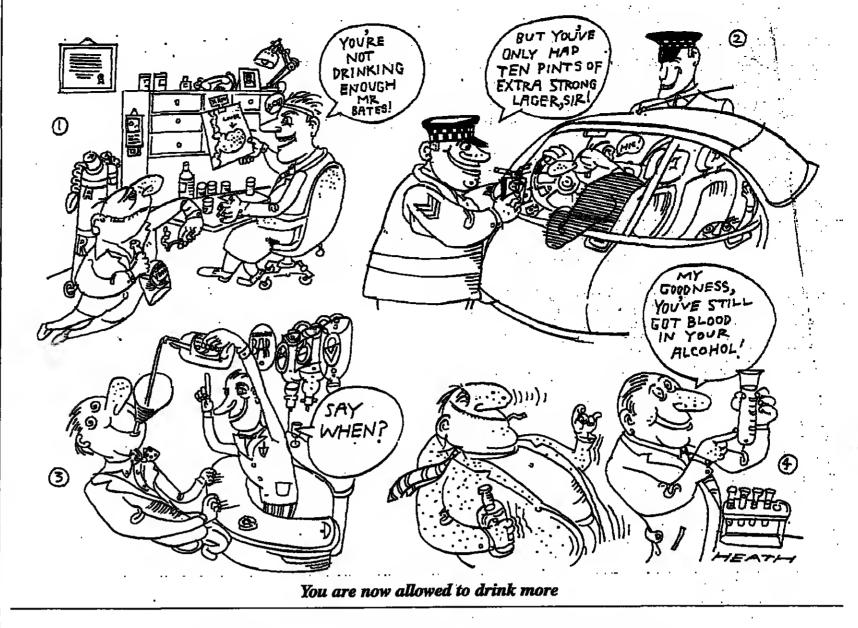
film came out, I bet there were some

groups of friends really called Bob

"When that film came out," said

Ted and Alice."

from Mandy, Rog, Emma, Doug, and Carol and Ted and Alice, and I



- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

No fears for 'real' refugees

From Ms Ann Widdecomb Sir: Peter Popham ("Sorry, Britain is now closed", 12 December) misunderstands the intention and the effect of the Asylum and Immigration Bill. There is no question that Britain is now closed to refugees. The UK will continue to honour its ohligations under the 1951 Refugee Convention.

Last year, the Home Office granted asylum to 825 appli-cants. On top of that, 3,360 applicants who did not qualify under the convention were granted exceptional leave for humanitarian reasons. Absolutely noth-ing in the Bill will change the substantive criteria for making asylum and exceptional leave

Mr Popham complains about the delays. The fact is that the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993 enabled the average decision time in new cases to be reduced from more than 18 months to four months. But that significant improvement has subsequently been eroded by the massive rise in asylum applica-tions. There were 22,400 in 1993. 32,800 in 1994, and a projected 45,000 this year.

I cannot comment on the individual case highlighted in the article. But it is certainly true that no one suffers more from this massive overloading of the asylum procedures than genuine

The Bill and accompanying administrative measures aim to tackle this problem comprehensively, fairly and in a way that is fully compatible with our obligations under the convention. Genuine refugees have nothing to fear from our proposals. Yours faithfully,

ANN WIDOECOMBE Minister of State Home Office London, SW1 12 December

the goings-on in the film."
"Oh, sure," said Charlie, "and I

bet that when the famous pop group

of the same name got going, there were lots of groups of people called Dave, Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and

Tich who were very upset. Very

"It wasn't Dave, comma, Dee, Dozy, Beaky, etc." said Petc. "It was Dave Dee, Dozy, etc. There was one

chap called Dave Dee, not two peo-

"Are you sure?" asked Charlie.

hither your copy of the Guinness

I am aware of, but it is a tradition in

the pub that whatever reference

book is needed to settle an argument,

it is referred to as the Guinness Book

"Point one," said the landlord.

"the correct title of the group was

Dave no comma Dee, etc. Point two,

when firms send out Christmas cards,

their office workers do NOT sit

"Then how do they get signed,

"By an outside firm of contractors."
"You what?"

round all morning signing cards."

clever clogs?" said Charlie.

"Landlord!" cried Pete, "Bring

There is in fact no such book that

ple called Dave and Dee.

Book of Pub Arguments!"

of Pub Arguments.

likely."

Death of a headmaster: where responsibility lies | Weddings and optional extras

From Ms Diane McHarg

Sir: On behalf of children everywhere, we are in great sorrow for the death of headmaster Philip Lawrence. Our thoughts are with him and his family. As children, we feel partly responsible for this tragic incident and we feel betrayed by this terrible deed. We are aware that is our duty

to stop it from happening again. In our opinion, violence on television encourages children to think that violence is all a game. It is the responsibility of TV companies, toy and games manufacturers and shops to discourage children from seeing violence as fun. We hope that the children who were involved in the killing realise that they have ruined many people's lives, including their own.

We hope that children everywhere have learnt a lesson from where have learnt a lesson from where have learnt a lesson from before leaving home for school as

Widespread news of such raids though the parents. Widespread news of such raids should make children think twice before leaving home for school as 10 December

From Sir Fred Catherwood

global economy.

with all that!

Who did?"

pub staff to the card."

elucidated the landlord.

said the landlord.

anthentic.

"Oh, yes," said the landlord. "Quite and wanted to bring it to an end.

There was a stunned silence.

"Flo, Annie, Mick, Ian and Kim,"

There was another stunned

"They do family cards as well,"

"If you're interested, I'll give you their card. They take a family mail-

ing list and send cards to everyone on

it. They actually practise forging the

signatures of everyone in the family

so that they can make the names look

Much later, when the pub was emptying, I asked the landlord if it

was true what he had said about the

firms that do cards for you. He said

it was a total fabrication, but he was

getting fed up with the conversation

Sir: Andrew Marr ("Dreams bro-

ken in the streets of Paris", 12

December) is quite right to warn

us that, after 50 years of growing

European unity, we are at a dangerous turning point. But the reason is not the power of the

The Maastricht treaty is

intended to protect us against the

shock waves of the global econ-

omy by giving us a currency that

would be strong enough to stand

up to anything thrown against it, stronger and with a far wider base

than the dollar and the yen, and

much more easily tradeable than

the mark. It would lower interest

rates, abolish costly currency cou-

version within the EU's huge

market and win the fight against

inflation. Nothing the matter

The first political mistake was

that, unlike the single market, which emerged with strong and widespread popular support from

this violent, selfish, foolish and

Let's all take it upon ourselves to make the world a better place and keep it safe.

DIANE MCHARG (headteacher) and CLASS 5G Preston Park Primary School Wembley, Middlesex

From Mr Basil D'Silva

Sir: A group of policemen should arrive unannounced at their chosen school with prior permission of the headmaster and check every child while leaving the gate of the school at the end of classes for lethal weapons and drugs. A little inconvenience to the children on the day will not cause

Maastricht mistakes can be corrected country could wake up to find

the elected European Parliament.

it came from behind the closed

doors of the European Council

and was seen as the creature of

was that the powerful central

bank, fully staffed, operating

directly in the markets, was not

matched with a corresponding

increase in the power of the

European Parliament, to which

it was to be publicly account-

able. Chancellor Kohl had made

this a sticking point, which he

only gave up at the very last

despite its seven-year timetable,

it allowed no interim safeguard

against the vulnerability of the European Monetary System from

the new free movement of cur-

rency and larger trade deficits

from the freer markets. Twelve countries were left to defend 12

separate exchange rates out of 12 separate currency reserves, and a

The technical mistake was that,

The second political mistake

bankers and bureaucrats.

to whether or not to carry a lethal weapon. Yours sincerely, BASIL D'SILVA London, SW20

From Mr Tony Fegan Sir. We have had a recent tragedy of a headmaster being stabbed to death by thugs, and no arrests to

date of the assailants involved. I am a 71-year-old pensioner, an ex-able seaman and a dock worker. I remember when a seaman going ashore for a lunchtime drink was not allowed to have his knife and

spike on him if going outside the dock area of most ports. Now society is going back to the jungle and it is warfare, even with children. Yours faithfully,

that it had lost half of its currence

reserves before breakfast. Black

Wednesday was a foreseeable disaster which monetary union,

when it came, was intended to

prevent. Perversely, it took the

The economic mistake was

that the new monetary power of

the central bank was not matched

by a corresponding body which

could concert the economic strat-

egy of the member states. So,

unlike the single market, it was

not seen as a means to create jobs

All these faults can be put

right. The alternative is either

the competitive devaluations

and trade barriers of the Thir-

ties, or that we are ruled by the

The writer was vice-president of the

through economic expansion.

From The Rev T. R. Barker Sir: Mrs M. Harris (letter, 9

December) draws attention to an important issue hut hits the wrong target. The legal fees for a marriage service in the Church of England, from 1 January 1996, will be £114, plus £12 for the banns of marriage. To this can be added - if the couple request such services and if they are available in their parish church charges for music (the organist and choir), the ringing of the church bells, flowers and additional beating.

Yet, even if all these extra

charges are added in a large parish church, the church fees remain a very small part of the cost of the average marriage. The trouble is that, for a whole variety of reasons, couples choose to spend vast amounts of money on cars, videos, photographs and dresses for the bride and bridesmaids - and that is before taking mto account the cost of the wedding reception, the almost inevitable evening party and a honeymoon.

When one looks at the substantial cost of an elaborate wedding, even in a less affluent community, the church fees are almost small change. It is perfectly possible to have a church wedding without all the extra expenditure that so many couples choose.

If the cost of a church wedding really is beyond the means of some couples, then perhaps we have to look again at our charges. But the prospect of running a means test in the vestry of the vicarage does not appeal. Yours faithfully. T.R. BARKER

Diocesan Communications Officer Chester 10 December

From The Rev Derek Smith Sir: When I was in full-time min-European Partiament, 1989-1991. istry in a fairly affluent parish, I always encouraged the less affluent by remitting most of the wedding fees and even provided modest accommodation for the wedding reception. I believe this is a fairly common practice in many parishes, if not all. Yours faithfully, DEREK SMITH

Winterley, Cheshire

From Mr Samuel Mondle : Sir: The fees levied by the churches are required to be charged by law and no exceptions can be made. Any extras (such as the choir, video, etc) are not necessary to the exchange of vows in a church. Any couple wishing to take advantage of those extras and not able to afford them can opt to do what a couple in our church did last year - they had the marriage coemony performed in the morning family service with the whoe congregation present to witnes their union, followed by a bringand-share-a-meal. The fellowship which we shared was a shiing example of Christ in action a our daily lives.

There is absolutely no excus for people to "live in sin" and much less for any part of the Church of Christ to condone Yours sincerely, SAMUEL MONDLE West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire 12 December

bet they were really rather upset by common now. If you're sending out commercial Christmas cards, you get a firm to do it for you. We did." "Us here at the Old Black Lion. Last year it took us ages to do all our

cards, hut this year we were approached by a firm who would do all the signing and sending for us, so we leapt at it. We had to compromise a bit, because we don't really have Father Christmas. The facts are that Santa Claus, many people working for us, so the firm added five fictional names of

Father Christmas is an older

character, whose adoption in Britain can be attributed to Prince Albert, who introduced Father Christmas and a whole batch of pagan Christmas ideas from Germany. The nature of Father Christmas owes more to Christmas's pagan roots; he embodies the feasting and hedonistic "eat, drink and be merry" attitude and is rarely seen except in pictures trying to evoke an image of "Christmas past". Yours faithfully, JONATHAN LECKIE

6 December

Hats off to the **BBC's heads**

From Mr Angus Roxburgh

Bundesbank.

Balsham,

Yours sincerely

Cambridgeshire

12 December

FRED CATHERWOOD

Sir: I'm tonched by Magnus Mills's concern at seeing me hat-less and freezing in Moscow ("Dear Angus Roxburgh", 8 December). Perhaps he could make his feelings known to BBC management, for it is they who insist their correspondents must not wear hats. They think it undermines our authority. The increased medical bills for our constant colds, flu and rheumatism don't seem to bother them at all. Incidentally, I do occasionally wear one when it reaches, say, 30-40 degrees below, but whip it off just before appearing

on camera.

ANGUS ROXBURGH **BBC News & Current Affairs** Moscow 8 December

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number, (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret that we are unable to scknowledge unpublished letters. Back issues of the Independent are available from Historic Newspapers. 9800 906609.

Coke's Santa – it's Season's greetings from absent friends not the real thing

From Mr Jonathan Leckie Sir: Recent letters to the editor on the validity of telling children the truth about the myth/lies of the existence of Santa Claus have continued to make the same error. They consistently refer to this "jolly fellow" as

his personality and garb were invented by Coca-Cola in the 1920s or 1930s to sell its product. his face being based on the face of the artist who drew him. He. therefore, is a very fitting image for the commercial feeding frenzy that is Christmas.

Paisley, Strathclyde

Edward He

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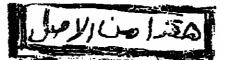
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with the April

37.



Man enough for poisonous porridge

Judge Tumim has been shamefully rewarded for his work as prisons inspector. But an ideal post is vacant

I was the moment the audience had waited for. The prisoners of HMP Wandsworth belted out the song with I was the moment the audience had I waited for. The prisoners of HMP Wandsworth belted out the song with an irony, wit and poignancy no other cast could have galvanised: "We are sick, we are sick Juvenile delinquency is a social disease. We're no good, we're no good, go is a social disease. We're no good, we're no good, we're no good, good, good." The words of West Side Story, written some 40 years ago, still summarise the same old arguments. Are they sick or bad, to be punished or rehabilitated, for education or retribution? Judge Stephen Tumin has planted his standard firmly on the side of redemption, through education and the arts. through education and the arts.

This was an evening for the great and good to say farewell to the great and good Judge Tumim, after his eight years as inspector of prisons came to an abrupt and untimely end when the Home Secretary chose not to renew his contract. The audience was packed with the tattered renmants of what was once called the liberal establishment - distinguished judges and lawyers, Lord Longford, Prunella-Scales, the former director of prisons and recent liberal convert Derek Lewis (another Howard victim), and many more, garbed in bow ties in homage to Turnim's own. It was a cabal of appreciation, an act almost of

insurrection.

Coded and not so coded words were spoken at the end of the show. And Judge Tumim warned that the 50 per cent cut being made in education inside prisons would virtually bring to an end performances such as these.

When it was strongly rumoured population.

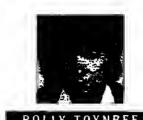
committees, no further service required, despite his hard-carned expertise. His honest and acerbic turn of phrase is not in demand.

He departed with a resounding speech on the redemptive power of art for prisoners, especially drama. A couple of prisoners in the cast spoke, too, effusive in praise for the judge, extolling with a few wry jokes all he has done for the prison service, the dignity of prisoners, for their rehabilitation and education. "Thank you for trying," one said. Lumps in throats all round. How sickened Michael Howard would

have been by all this soft stuff. The prisons are now fuller than they have ever been, as a deliberate result of the Home Secretary's belief that "prison works". On 1 December, when the new inspector of prisons took over, the prison population stood at 52,731 - 9,000 more than when Michael Howard became Home Secretary in 1993, But a confidential Home Office

document warns that there is much

worse still to come. In his party conference speech, Howard announced new measures designed to send yet more people to prison for longer. Three-strikes-andyou're-out for burglary, life for secondtime violent and sex offenders and making prisoners serve their full sentences will multiply the prison



A secret internal Home Office memorandum makes an alarming prediction on the probable effect of just the last of these: making prisoners serve their full sentences. It expects the prison population to rise by 10,000 in the first year and another 10,000 in the second year, the total increase by year 10 being 29,000. This estimate is sed on the assumption that judges would hand out exactly the same sentences as at present, which they prob-ably wouldn't. But the same document says that indges would have to reduce

of present terms if a large increase in prison population is to be avoided. Very few people imagine that judges will do that, either. At what point will the overcrowding become so explosive that riots will break out again? Will Michael Howard still be there to reap the whirl-wind of this policy? The new drastic cuts in education, with staff directed

their sentences to less than 60 per cent

to more security duties instead of escorting prisoners from cells to classrooms, will add to the pressure. So far no one has applied for the job

of director of prisons, following the sacking of Derek Lewis in October. The Home Office press office retorts that it hasn't been advertised yet – but it is widely regarded as the job from hell, a poisonous bowl of porridge. There is a deep, despairing anger among many in the prison service and it echoes in the whisperings down Home Office corridors. "No Home Secretary in living memory has ever been so hated," says one insider. "He puts political advantage ahead of

everything else. Everyone's just holding their breath and trying to bear it until he goes," says another. I have never heard civil servants speak like this.

It was with an unguarded whoop of joy that one prison service insider greeted this week's comments by Tumim's successor. The fear was that Howard's appointee as inspector of prisons, General Sir David Ramsbotham, would he a know-nothing puppet, used to obeying orders. After all, Peter Lilley recently brought in a safe army man to head the tricky Social Services Advisory Committee. (A third ex-forces recruit, however, the Prisons Ombudsman, Sir Peter Woodhead, has turned out a disappointment to Howard, protestingvigorously that complaints which he upholds have been regularly rejected by the prison

Now it appears that the new inspector of prisons may be cut from the Tumim cloth. In his first interview this week he savaged the idea of boot camps for the young. He does not think

offenders should face tougher regimes in prison, wants them to have more incentives and he expresses deep anxicty at the growing overcrowding. "I am not going to respond to party political pressure," he said. "I shall be very crit-ical, but I hope constructive." Judge Turnim chuckled with gice on

reading this: "I never criticised political policy like that!" he said.

In writing his epitaph, it would be quite wrong to label Turnim as a straightforward liberal, for many penal reformers disagree strongly with his views. They believe custody should only be for the dangerous, and that prison is had for people, hardening their criminality, with no proven good effect on reoffending rates. Tumim thinks well-run prisons could, and should transform people. The figures mean nothing, as it has never been

As he settles down to write his book on prisons, he advocates intensive education, training, moral and psy-chological counselling, proper work paid at proper rates, and arts to lift their horizons. Although he thinks too many people are sent to prison, he dismisses the liberal counsel of despair, along with the right's bleat that it wouldn't be fair to give offenders advantages not shared by the honest unemployed outside the walls.

He has a Victorian faith in the power to redeem people, a faith all too unfashionable in so much social policy at the moment.

If they can't find anyone else, why not appoint him as director of prisons?

European integration is in their

national interest; as a result, they are

able to focus domestic debates on the

important questions of "how" and

"when", not oo what they regard as the rather redundant one of "whether".

These are not merely hollow words, rhetoric without fulfilment. The

dilemma of party interest versus

national interest was one that con-

fronted me on several occasions dur-

ing my 10 years as leader of the Con-

servative Party. One such occasion was

in May 1967 when the House of Com-

mons voted on the Labour govern-

ment's policy of applying to join the Common Market, Though the method

of application was deeply flawed, and I was aware that party capital could be made by embarrassing the govern-

ment, I asked all Conservative mem-

bers to support the government's policy. As I told the House: "We on this

side of the House are backing the gov-

ernment's application. I wish that to be

known everywhere. This clearly

demonstrates that the great majority

ing it also. What is important at this

juncture is that this is all history and

John Major and his government have rightly welcomed the support of

Mr Blair and his party over the peace process in Northern Ireland. Labour

may have put party interest above

national interest when voting on Euro-

pean matters, but I do not believe that

the Conservative Party should do the

me if Labour comes into power and is right about Europe. For the record, I issued a statement explaining all of

must make its own impact on Europe."

of the House of Commons are back-

Michael Farrell wonders what has motivated the Government to lift accepted safe alcohol levels

comment

We don't need one more drink

The Government is too close to the alcohol and tohacco industry for the good of the people's health. It firmly opposes any ban on tobacco advertising. And yesterday, as the World Health Organisation launched its largest conference ever on the health risks associated with alcohol, the Department of Health announced revised guidelines universally perceived as an increase in the recommended sensible drink-

These limits previously stood at 21 units of alcohol a week for men and 14 for women. The Goveroment has now announced daily limits - three to four units a day for men and two to three for women. The old sensible limits were backed as recently as June in a report by the Royal Colleges of physicians, psychiatrists and general

hy the Brit-ish Medical The resounding Association. However.

message to the the Government has been public is that they day's guidelines under intense pressure from can drink more alcobol

industry to ... modify these sensible limits. An interoal nation of the alcohol indusworking group of civil servants try's long-term pressure on reviewed the scientific evidence ostensibly on the links between alcohol and coronary heart disease and produced conclusions at significant variance with all recent UK reports.

The Royal Colleges' report. Alcohol and the Heart in Perspective: sensible limits reaffirmed, stated that alcohol consumption of one to two units a day protects middle-aged men against coronary heart disease and that alcohol may possibly have a protective effect in women, but it stressed that against this must be set the harmful effects of alcohol.

Approximately one third of men and 10 to 15 per cent of women already drink more than the existing recommended sensible limits. In 1990 the Government, in its Health of the Nation strategy, set a target eantly re ber drinking above these limits. Subsequent surveys have shown no changes in the numbers drinking above these levels. Despite this, the Government has now in effect increased the levels for safe drinking to a level that is against current medical advice. The single unit a day increase for women amounts to a rise of 50 per cent in recommended consumption and an increase of one third for men.

The Government has adopted a highly peculiar health promotion strategy by providing a choice of figures for the public 10 pick from. It has in effect squeezed up the levels while managing also to quote the more scientifically validated figure of two units for women and three units for men. This could be interpreted as a cynical move to improve its failing chances of hitting its target, but is more likely to he driven by the revenue benefits to be accrued by the likely increase in per capita

consumption. While one extra unit a day may seem little to dehate over. it is clear that the resounding pre-Christmas message to the public is that they can drink more and drink more often.

In the sale of addictive substances such as alcohol and practitioners and endorsed tohacco there is always a bal-

ance between economic gain for the Treasury and the damage to the public's tory of Treasury over health and

the Government. Thus, at a time when the Government's strategy to reduce those drink-ing above the sensible limits is clearly failing, the Govern-ment has reduced taxation on whisky, increased children's access to public houses and recommended higher levels of consumption in a manner that is most likely to increase the health and social burden of alcohol-related harm on

society.
In the same year the Government's new drug strategy consultation rejected proposals that alcohol and tobacco be included as part of the overall plan. Thus at a time when the Government wishes to give a firm message to young people against drug use it sends out the opposite message on alcohol and tobacco to the adult

The alcohol industry will applaud these changes as it pushes to maximise pre-Christmas sales, but the high cost of these changes will accumulate inexorably over the coming

The writer is senior lecturer and consultant in alcohol and drug dependence, National Addiction Centre and Maudsley Hospital.

I put the national interest first

Edward Heath sets the record straight on Labour, Europe and party treachery

In recent years I have become increasingly alarmed at the way the press has distorted and sensationalised the European debate in this country. Even so, I was still somewhat shocked to read the headlines in Monday's newspapers: "Til back Labour, says Heath"; "Heath may vote with Labour"; "Heath threatens revolt over EU". The content of the articles did nothing to soothe my ire. The Financial Times; normally more temperate, claimed that I had warned the Prime. Minister that I would be willing to "defy the party, line and vote with: Labour if the leadership's drift towards Euro-scepticism continued". The Independent was virtually alone in ignoring this wholly spurious tale. Such reporting amounts to a gross misrepresentation of what I actually

said in my interview with John Humphrys, as anyone who watched it. will be aware. My position was, and is, quite simple. In the entirely hypothetical event, put to me by the interviewer, of there being a Labour government which was putting forward sensible pro-posals for the future of Britain in Europe. I might be willing to support such proposals. I hope that other Conservatives would give them a fair hearing as well, and put the national interest before the usual party battles. What this emphatically does not

mean is that I am intending to vote against the present Conservative government on European matters, nor indeed on any other matters. I have always supported this Government and I will continue to do so. It is true that I wish the Government had more that is positive to say about European Union, and rejoiced more in our role in it. However, I have not the slightest intention of voting against the Government while it continues to support Britain's membership of the Union, and our role in its development. Nor did I say that I found the Labour Party's policy on Europe to be more congenial to me than the Government's Indeed, despite the promptings of my interviewer, I refused to be drawn on this issue. While Labour politicians have spo-

en warmly of Europe, the entirety of our post-war history suggests that we should not regard this as a Pauline or even permanent conversion. The Labour Party has a dismal record on Europe, both in and out of office. The Attlee government's refusal to partake in the Schuman Plan, which laid the foundations for the European Community, was primarily responsible for leaving us isolated from the Continent. Harold Wilson's gyrations were equally destructive of British influence, conveying the impression that Britain was not committed to Europe, and favoured it only out of opportunism. It is too early to be sure of Tony Blair's commitment to the European



non party platform in the campaign for the 1975 referendum on Europe

Union. None the less, his endorsement of the Labour leadership's anti-Com-mon Market platform in 1983, as well as his general political style, suggests that his view on Europe may be as liable to change as those of Harold Wilson and Neil Kinnock. The Conservative Party, which has been in power for twothirds of the post-war period, has been consistent as a party of Europe.

Because of this deep-

rooted and long-standing support for Europe within the Conservative Party, I believe that the hypothesis put to me by Mr Humphrys—that of a pro-European Labour government faced with an

anti-European Conservative opposition - is highly unlikely to arise. Nor would

The point I wished to make in answering the question as I did is that matters of supreme national interest must override partisan boundaries. This is hardly a sensational prononneement. That it should be seen as such reflects not just on the nature of the reporting in question, but also on the erosion of statesmanship in the House of Commons over the past two decades. The adherence to principles and the pursuit of national, as opposed to party, interests have become so unfashionable these days, that the great figures of our history would scarcely find comfort, let alone adulation, were they to operate in the present political climate.

Europe has always been an issue which I have regarded as being above

Regarding interviews by me or anyone else, I suggest Euro-sceptic colleagues watch them before commenting

the cut and thrust of domestic politics. There are two reasons for this.

In the first place, Britain's rela-tionship with Europe is of supreme importance to the British people. Though it is occasionally represented as an arcane constitutional issue, it is in fact hugely important, not just in shaping our role in the world, but also in affecting the practical, everyday concerns of ordinary people. No effective strategy for raising employment, combating crime or enhancing investment can exist at a purely national level. Our Empire has gone, and in 1997 our last major overseas territory

- Hong Kong - will have gone. We can still play a positive and influential role in the development of the free world - hut only as part of Europe.

Secondly, if Britain is to gain the maximum rewards from its membership of the European Union, a constructive commitment to

Europe must exist across a wide spectrum of opinion. Our colleagues in Europe are not impressed by confused signals about our commitment to the Union. Nor are our indus-

trialists or potential investors impressed. This is not, of course, to say that debate should be stifled, but merely to emphasise that a polarised attitude to Europe is unlikely to result in a coherent and long-term appraisal of British interests.

There is a strong pro-Europe majority in the House of Commons, which is only prevented from emerging clearly by party manoeuvrings Until it does emerge, interoational confidence in our intentions will be damaged. Almost all the other mem-

this and clarifying what I said on Sunday to avoid any further misrepresentation. It was ignored by every newspaper, so far as I could see. When I am accused by Euro-sceptics of threatening treachery, and of conspiring with Labour on Europe in

order to embarrass a Conservative government, I am toro between anger and scoro. My own conduct on Europe and my support for John Major have been honourable and consistent. It is the Euro-sceptics who voted on the Maastricht Bill hoth against their principles and against their own party and government, and then queued up to join the campaign against John Major in the summer. Regarding interviews by me or anyone else in future, I suggest that my Euro-sceptic colleagues might watch them before commenting on them. The future of this country in Europe is too important for all these trifles to put it at risk in any way. Let us get back to a serious, intelligent debate about the choices that lie ahead.

The writer is Conservative MP for Old Bedev and Sideup.



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ANOTHER VIEW Robert Rendine

Why did Branson sit on bribe story for so long?

On Panorama on Monday night, Richard Branson made remarks that were clearly grossly defamatory, accusing our chairman, Guy Snowden, of attempting to bribe him to drop his

bid to run the National Lottery. Mr Branson has a lot of questions to answer. Why didn't he make these allegations immediately? Then he could have caused a great deal of damage to Camelot's bid. Why did he not pursue the alleged bribery to Offict, the lottery regulator, when the bids were made?

to Peter Davis, the director-general of Oflot. Mr Davis says this never

nappened. A closely researched book about Mr Branson published this year contains a detailed account of the lunch with Mr Snowden, yet contains no mention of any bribery attempt. In fact, the suggestion is that Mr Snow-den tried to frighten the Branson team

from bidding. Why did Richard Branson not go straight to the police? Surely, as a cit-

He claims he offered to complain izen of the United Kingdom, he had a duty to report any wrongdoing? Yet he waited two years before unveiling his story on television - surely an inappropriate place to make such serious

> I would like an answer from Mr Branson to all these questions. At the moment his allegations are tainted by the way they have been made. We at GTech are considering

damaging story, we surely deserve

As for the flights that we provided for Peter Davis when he visited the United States, everything was in strict accordance with all the laws, rules and regulations. There was nothing improper at all. Mr Davis, at his request, flew to five cities in three days, visiting GTech sites and our competitors. There is simply no way he could have covered so much whether in sue. As Mr Branson has ground so quickly on scheduled taken two years to emerge with his

a few days to consider our response.

Since the lottery was introduced in

Britain, lottery-bashing has become a favourite pastime of some sections of the media. Camelot - in which we hold a 22 per cent stake - is attacked for its great success. I discount those attacks because I think those who matter are the people who play the lottery-and virtually everyone in Britain is joining in, at least occasionally, to have a little flutter. That's what really

The writer is director of public relations

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2098

Halifax hand-outs to benefit 100,000

MARKET SUMMARY STOCK MARKETS

FTSE 100	3654,90	+2.80	+0.1	3680.40	2954.20	3,95
FTSE 250	3933.50	-3.40	-0.1	3991.30	3300.90	3.59
FTSE 350	1808.60	+0.70	+0.0	1821.50	931.00	3.87
FT Small Cap	1937.60	-0.37	-0.0	1993.11	1678.61	3.33
FT All Share	_1782.18	+0.65	+0.0	1837.78	1469.23	3.83
New York *	5174.20	-10.12	-0.2	5185.76	3832.08	2.27
Tokyo	19312.77	+85.99	+0.4	19684.04	14485,41	0.781
Hong Kong	9927.29	+92.12	+0.9	10032.93	6967.93	3.89†
Frankfurt	2289.77	+16.95	+0.7	2317.01	1910.96	1.981
Paris	1848.94	-0.65	-0.0	2017.27	1721.80	3,20†
Milan	9125.00	+102.00	+1.1	9911.00	8757.00	1.77+
"Bear Junes Joden &	Graph at 1380 in	MES.			HT/SEP Box	
		MAIN PRI	CE CH	ANGES		
FT-SE 350 companies	(excluding inves	treat trests)			-	-

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6.45	= (2-		1 65	
6.30	7.5		13-	
6.20	7.5-		59	
6.10 W 7 F M	7.4-		5.8	P . I.

US	5.75	5.41	5.73	7.83	6.0 5	7.86
Japan_	0.31	0.38	1.29	4.56		
Germany	4.19	3.75	6.11	7.49	6.89	
			*Seachmer!	l folices		
		CURR	ENCIES			
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154		221		155-		2
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Pound				Bollar			
	festerday	Change !	Year Age		estendy	Charge 1	har les
\$ (Landon)	1.5314	-0.23c	1.5622	£ (London)	0.6530	+0.10	0.64
\$ (N York)‡	1.5305	-0.45c		£ (N York)‡	0,6534	+0.19	0.64
DM (London)	2.2183	+0.34pf	2.4569	DM (London)	1,4485	+0.4301	1.572
Yen (London)							100.3
£ Index	82.80			S.ladez	94.4		96.5

Source: FT Information

Cable & Wireless appoints Hoare Govett

INBRIEF

Cahle & Wireless has appointed Hoare Govett as joint broker with Cazenove, fuelling speculation that the company expects a bid. Cable & Wireless was thrust into disarray last month by a vicious elash between Lord Young, chairman, and James Ross, chief executive, resulting in the departure of both men. One City unalyst pointed out that Cazenove is also a broker to BT, which has been rumoured as a potential suitor for C&W. Shares in C&W, which said that it wanted the addition of a "more research oriented" house, rose by 5p to close at £4.46.

Pearson ahead as City awaits shake-up

Shares in Pearson, the media group that owns the Financial Times, jumped 10p to 670p in early trading yesterday as the City braced itself for sweeping boardroom changes at the publishing and television empire. The company is expected to clarify the succession question today as Frank Barlow, the company's 65-year-old chief executive, is approaching retirement. Greg Dyke, head of Pearson's television interests has emerged as a favourite in the City to take the top job. It will also announce a new finance director, with John Makinson, managing director of the FT, replacing James Joll. Pearson's shares closed up 7p at 667p.

Rules relaxed for 'home service' insurers

The Personal Investment Authority, the financial services watchdog, is relaxing its rules forcing thousands of "home service" insurance sales staff to take tough exams before they contact their clients. Home service staff, selling a narrower range of products, will now be allowed to take a less onerous test. The rule change is expected to benefit Prudential and Pearl, who employ the bulk of home service staff.

MPs want Irish steel aid blocked

A group of mainly Labour MPs will today ehallenge the Government to block aid for the Irish steel industry which most European Union member states have approved, arguing that it will cost hundreds of British jobs. Tim Eggar, minister for energy and industry, will appear this morning at the debate on the issue by European Standing Committee B. So far he has argued that stringent conditions should be attached to any aid to minimise the risks to employment in the UK.

Date set for BCCI extradition hearing

A provisional date of 15 and 16 February 1996 has been set for the hearing of the US extradition request for the former treasury head of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). Syed Ziauddin Ali Akbar was sentenced to six years in prison in 1993 in the UK for his part in the misuse of more than \$1.2hn. He appeared in court to hear the date being set and will appear again on January 9 for a further preliminary hearing. Bail was not granted.

Waste Management warns on profits

Waste Management International, the American-owned waste disposal group, issued a profits warning yesterday, blaming weak trading and problems in strike-bound France. The company is to cut 300 jobs and will record a £123m exceptional charge to cover a restructuring programme. The changes follow a review of operations and management structure undertaken since Joseph Holsten was appointed chief executive. The company is to abandon some hazardous waste treatments which are uneconomic. The shares fell 23p to 346p.

Up to 100,000 mostly elderly Halifax Building Society mem-bers whose partners have died stand to gain up to £100m in payouts following the society's decision to opt for hank status.

nounced yesterday, will go to second-named persons on joint Halifax savings or mortgage accounts, mostly benefiting women whose husbands die

the bonanza. Halifax plans to hand over shares worth an average of about £300 to "personal representatives" of former account-holders or borrowers.

Halifax's move aims to avoid the débacle faced by Chel-The share hand-outs, an- tenham & Gloucester when up to 5,000 of its members were initially refused a share of the £1.8m payout when C&G was taken over by Lloyds. Their bat-

Heirs also stand to gain from MP Douglas French for them to able distribution to members." receive a share of the Lloyds takeover money.

David Gilchrist, general manager at Halifax, said: "We have been able to use provisions in the Private Memhers' Bill, passed earlier this year, which enabled the C&G to make pay-

ments to its own widows. We have made no secret of holders able to benefit. the fact that our preference is for an across-the-board distribtle forced the Government not ution for the bulk of the shares

The exact details of how and when the distribution will take effect have not been decided.

The shares handed out will depend on Halifax's value when de-mutualisation takes place in mid-1997. Analysts suggest Halifax could be worth up to £10bn, with 10 million account-

The society's announcement means second-named accountholders whose partners have died will receive a basic share

Permanent or Halifax account before midnight on 25 Novem-her, 1994. Additional shares will be distributed if the account was held continuously for two years at the conversion date and the balance is at least £1,000.

will also gain as long as they owed at least £100 on 25 Noborrowers until conversion.

hand-out if their partners held at least £100 in either a Leeds in the past year and their partner had an endowment available to pay off the mortgage, Halifax staff have been advising them to leave some of the debt unpaid so they can gain from the de-mutualisation.

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

If a sole holder of an eligible Unlike the C&G payout, almost two million borrowers ceive the basic distribution. Should they have been a member for two years, they will also vember last year and remain get the additional variable amount of shares.

Exchange to launch Amec share inquiry

MAGNUS GRIMOND

The Stock Exchange is expected to launch an insider dealing investigation into the trading of Amec shares following a Takeover Panel ruling that price-sensitive information was iven to the market by the company's public relations advisers, Financial Dynamics.

A director of Financial Dynamics, believed to be the chairman, Tony Knox, is alleged to have given the profit information to one analyst unconnected with the £350m hid for Amec by Kvaerner of Norway.

Financial Dynamics last night said it fully understood it ohligations to meet takeover rules but would make no comment on the identity of the director involved. Following the panel's criticism, Amec last night sacked Financial

with rivals Dewe Rogerson, Amec shares were unchanged at 100p. As one of the key advisers to the construction group, FD was likely to be aware of the company's own predictions of next year's results. The prospects of a profits recovery next year

bave formed a central plank in the group's attempts to fend off Kvaerner, but no actual figures have been officially revealed. following apparently well-informed speculation in the weekend press about the level of 1996 profits. The panel's investiga-tions forced the company into making a statement on Monday. That disassociated the Amec

"requested and received specific written confirmation from Amec and its public relations advisers, Financial Dynamics, that no such information had been made available or implied by any statements made to third parties."

Nat West Markets, merchant hank advisers to Amec, also confirmed that the company and all its advisers had been briefed on the requirements of the Takeover Code, which forbids important information being passed on without being made available to all investors in the market.

But the panel says that in a conversation last Friday between an FD director and the umnamed broker, certain comments were made relating to the level of Amec profits for 1996. Dynamics and replaced them The panel says this "would have constituted material new information which was not public and was not capable of being made public without being prepared and reported on in accordance. with the strict requirements set

out m the Code." It added that the conversation with the FD director also in-duded unpublished parts of the defence strategy and the contents of the defence document not due The panel became concerned to be issued for several days. The executive ruled that FD

> its discussions with analysts which resulted in serious breaches of the Code and is criticised accordingly." The bidder yesterday upped

"failed to take sufficient care in



Cable crew: Granada's executives (from left) Henry Staunton, Gerry Robinson and Charles Allen Photograph; Peter Macdiarmid Granada to unveil cable venture

JOHN SHEPHERD

Granada Group, deeply ma-mersed in a bitter £3.3hu takeover fight for Forte, will to-day announce a significant ex-Media analysis said the deal day announce a significant ex-pansion of its LWT television subsidiary.

The plans involve LWT launching at least three new ca-ble channels in a joint venture potential of Granada's television with BSkyB, the television company controlled by Rupert Mur-doch in which Granada has a duce debts if its hid succeeds. Granada's sharcholders yes-10.8 per cent £780m stake.

The three channels will offer drama, light entertainment and soap operas. Industry sources added that the deal with BSkyB would involve back catalogues board and its all its advisers its stake in its target by 2.4 per of programme from any such leaks.

its stake in its target by 2.4 per of programme cent, taking it to 24 per cent. don's Burning. of programmes such as Lon-

Health effect of

Compass sell-off

There was a separate indus-try rumour that back editions of Coronation Street, produced through Granada, might form

was unlikely to have a direct bearing on the bid for the Forte botels group, although it would businesses and its ability to re-

Granada's shareholders yesterday overwhelmingly supported the board's aggressive move launched against Forte three weeks ago. Only two out of 80 shareholders at the extraordinary general meeting voted against, and only 0.4 per cent of the millions of proxy cards sent in disagreed with the

Only one question came from the floor. John Buckley, a small shareholder, was concerned that the company might have to recall investors again to ask per-mission to increase its bid. He asked: "Like Oliver Twist, will you be coming again with your

that Oliver Twist had a happy

Gerry Robinson, chief execleadership of Sir Rocco Forte. outcome of the bid is known. A spokeswoman for Forte,

which yesterday announced the £2.2m sale of a hotel in Liege and a successful planning appeal for the redevelopment of the Polygon hotel in Southamp-ton, said: "Gerry's not coming out with anything new."

· According to industry sources Forte will announce a much larger disposal by early next begging bowi?" week: The sale is understood to Alex Bernstein, chairman, be the White Hart chain of week. The sale is understood to replied: "I would just like to say hotels to a £130m management-led buyout.

Granada has complained to the Takeover Panel about utive of Granada, used the Forte's plans to sell chunks of meeting to launch a further at- its business. The company betack against the "mismanage-ment" of Forte under the should be put on bold until the

Skipton cuts mortgage cost

Skipton Building Society, which stunned the mortgage market earlier this year by offering free unemployment insurance to its borrowers, yesterday unveiled the cheapest variable rate repayment mortgage of Britain's top 20 societies with a

figure of 7.49 per cent, writes Nic Cicutti. The decision cuts about £11 off the cost of an average £50,000 mortgage. The society has also moved to narrow the gap between mortgage and sav-ings rates even further by in-creasing rates paid to some instant access account savers.

Skipton has added a new tier offering 6.5 per cent gross on savings above £30,000 and pledged yesterday that even if it were forced to cut rates to its 300,000 savers it would try to do so by less than other lenders. John Goodfellow, chief ex-

low his example. "Our current rates later today.

profitability is strong and this is set to continue throughout 1996," he said. "Our capital po-sition is strong and I believe that now is the appropriate time to reduce margins for the benefit of all our members." The move to cut 0.5 per cent

off the existing rate will come into effect for the society's 60,000 existing borrowers on 1 February next year, one month after other lenders, who cut their own recently. But Skipton claimed that the difference in starting dates would only add a fraction to borrowers' bills. David Charlton, assistant general manager at Skipton, said falling bad debt provisions for societies meant that all should now be prepared to lower their margins further. Skipton's move came amid hints that lenders will not raise mortgage rates even if Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Executive at Skipton, yesterday Clarke, Chancellor of the Ex-challenged other lenders to fol-chequer, does not lower base

deal that could make the top 50 managers of the business mil-lionaires, writes John Shepherd. Senior and middle management are being offered the chance to take a 10 per cent equity stake for a total outlay of £500,000 by

CINVen, the venture capital group that is buying the business. The healthcare company, which operates 15 private hoscapital company also harbours plans to recoup some of the

pitals and no longer hits the global expansion strategy of the contract catering core of Compass, is headed by Nigel Harris.
CINVen is paying an initial £170.8m, and will repay a £8m loan after 8 years or before if the business is either sold or finated business is either sold or floated on the stock market. The venture

purchase cost by selling small equity stakes to other investors. Roger Matthews, finance di-rector of Compass, said the sale would help to cut the group's per cent of sales, almost £5m.

Compass Group has sold its £442m of debts amassed over bealthcare division in a £178m the last couple of years from the the last couple of years from the purchase of Canteen Corpora-tion in the US for £300m and the recent £500m acquisition of

Eurest in France. Shares in Compass yesterday rose 5p to 450p in a lacklustre stock market. Compass will also book a profit of up to £25m on the deal, relating to the writeback of goodwill and the surplus over the carrying value of the bospitals in the books.

Francis Mackay, chief executive and deputy chairman, said the disposal was a natural extension of Compass's strate-

gy to focus on catering. Simon Rowlands of CINVen, which recently conducted its own mangement buyout, said it

0336 416 295

would continue to reinvest in the hospitals at a rate above depreciation. The hospitals made £16.4m of profits on turnover of

BP boss backs single currency

PETER RODGERS **Business Editor**

Europe should move to monetary union on schedule, a toplevel Brussels advisory committee including Sir David Simon, chairman of BP, warned

The committee's report was far more committed to monetary union than British business as a whole which, according to a joint CBI and British Chambers of Commerce report last month, with the introduction would prefer to keep options open and decide nearer the time.

With the introduction European currency."

The report, commerce report, commerce report, commerce report last month, with the introduction in the introdu

Competitiveness Advisory Group, made up of senior business people and trade unionists, said completion of the internal market was an absolute prior-

ity to enhance competitiveness. Further progress on the internal market required that "European monetary union be fully implemented as sched-uled. Many of the benefits bestowed by an integrated internal market can materialise only with the introduction of the The report, commissioned

The European Commission's by Jacques Santer, president of gyrations in exchange rates, competitiveness Advisory the European Commission, has the benefits for all countries been published ahead of the "irrespective of the present Madrid summit of European leaders. The group's first report was published before the

Cannes summit Introducing the report, Sir. David said his personal support for monetary union was conditional on convergence between European economies and on having a single market as the

The committee said monetary union would avoid exposing danger of nation trade inside Europe to sudden and demands".

condition of their currency will be greater the higher the num-ber of participating member

The amhitious targets within the Maastricht treaty were now within reach and any delay or postponement "could drive them further away, with the risk of losing them, as well as jeopardising the work of decades. with the resurgence of the danger of nationalistic attitudes

*INDEPENDENT

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Other regulators in gas, electricity and water are beginning to talk of opening up the regulatory process.

Offot may find it needs to do that, too'

No danger to Camelot's licence to print money

Ever since its launch, the national lottery and its operators, Camelot, have been bathed in controversy. Try as it might, Camelot - a consortium of Cadbury Schweppes, De La Rue, GTech, ICL and Racal - has been unable to win the public relations battle. The regulator's careful demonstration that Camelot offered the best returns to good causes because of its lower operating costs was largely ignored. A National Audit Office report in July, which said the evaluation process was comprehensive, logical and competitive and that Camelot offered the highest returns to charities, also failed to dampen public donhts. Set against its leading rival, Richard Branson, who promised to give all his profits to charity too, Camelot was always going to be on a hid-

ing to nothing.

The latest shenanigans have put the lottery's problems onto an altogether different plane. Allegations by Richard Branson of attempted bribery and furious denials by Glech have been followed by an admission by Peter Davis, director general of Oflot that he accepted a free flight while visiting GTech. The latter was at best unwise and naive, but it would not be enough in itself to impugn his integrity. Direct allegations of corruption, however, raise very real con-cerns both about Offot itself and about regulation of privatise sector monopolies gen-

pendent of ministers, sitting secure in a unexpected words of support for the in- ket professionals meant to be contributing | tec. which includes a seconded Revenue blanket of secrecy and confidentiality, which | surance market's rescue plan from Chatset. | to the settlement drag on and on. Lloyd's | official among its membership of parliahe used nn Monday in fend off awkward questions about how much he knew about GTech. That is hardly a way to inspire publie confidence in the decisions Mr Davis took last year.

Other regulators in gas, electricity and water are beginning in talk of opening up the regulatory process to public scrutiny. Oflot may find it needs in do that, too, if it is in carry the public and parliament with it. Better still, the load should be taken off one person and shared with a committee.

Oflot also has some pretty tough powers it can use against Camelot, including the ability to revoke its licence. Furthermore, it can force shareholders to bow out by finding them not fit and proper. These are, how-ever, nuclear weapons, so dramatic that they are hard to use because the aggrieved party is entitled to demand the highest standards of proof and can pursue appeals through the courts. Regardless of who is right or wrong in this particular sprat, therefore, the case is now almost overwhelming.

Time to get tough with Lloyd's market players

I loyd's of London needs all the friends Lit can get. So it was with an audible mur-Mr Davis is in effect a government mur of surprise that the beleaguered esdepartment of his own, with powers indetablishment at Lime Street reacted to tinues to slip and negotiations with key martenay.

The latest development comes just a tew does not mean that issue too.

surance market's rescue plan from Chatset. the independent analysts. In the past, as Lloyd's condition turned from dire to disastrous, Chatset made its name for regularly laying hare, with figures and sharp analysis, the obfuscation, half-truths and downright lies behind which the insurance market sought increasingly to hide.

Now it has concluded that the rescue plan, and in particular the offer to Names to put a final cap on all their old liabilities by re-insuring them in a special company. Equitas, is the best way forward.

The 34,000 Names, most of whom have ceased trading in the market – but are still having to pay for their old liabilities as they role in year after year - are being offered a stark choice. Find sufficient money now to pay one last hill, the premium to reinsure all the old policies into Equitas, and finally win peace of mind. Or take their chances with the uncertainty of bills that continue to roll in, as Lloyd's is forced to shut its doors to new business and just manages all its old liabilities.

Chatset's support for the former option as the cheapest way out for long-suffering Names is something of a weathervane. It lends further credence to the view that a majority of Names just want an end to the nightmare and will give their backing to a reasonable settlement deal. But Lloyd's still

to the settlement drag on and on. Lloyd's should not just take comfort from Chatsel's support, but also carefully heed the warning that it is high time to get seriously tough with the key market players. Their niggling over paying into the settlement pot has been the main reason for the hold ups. And yet it is they who stand to lose most if Lloyd's

A tax system that needs to be clearer

Prying to make our excessively compli I cated tax system easier to understand is a noble and no doubt worthwhile cause. Certainly tax experts everywhere gave a broad welcome to yesterday's report on simplifying the legislation. Complex language and rules put an excessive hurden on personal and corporate tax payers alike.

However, although the project is undouhtedly far-ranging - it involves more than 40 people spending five years on a complete rewrite of the legislation – it is difficult to see what will he achieved from this alone, apart from a crystal award from the plain English campaigners.

The document and the supporting paper produced by the Revenue form just one part of a general push to reform the tax system. official among its memhership of parliamentarians, lawyers, academics and tax practitioners, came to much the same conclusion - that the lax system needed to be

clearer if it was to be properly understood. Meanwhile, Peter Wyman, a tax specialist at the accountants Coopers & Lyhrand. has recently agreed to head a Department of Trade and Industry deregulation task-force group which is looking at moving towards a merger of income tax and

National Insurance. What none of these manoeuvres deals with, however, is the growth in tax avoidance, which has become a booming industry despite the assertion that Britain's low rates of tax are a disincentive to spending a lot of money on tax advice. The complexity of the tax system is fertile soil for this blossoming protession.

The Revenue has got that front covered too, however. A consultation paper which was slipped out a few weeks ago is seeking views on whether Britain should follow the likes of Canada. Australia and New Zealand in introducing a general antiavoidance provision.

Practitioners are convinced that such a measure - centred on the idea that transactions carried out solely for tax reasons are barred - is unworkable. But just because they have got their way on simplification does not mean their views will prevail on

1,000 jobs to go in Northern Electric efficiency drive

Industrial Correspondent

Northern Electric will cut up to 1,000 jobs by the end of the decade in a continued efficiency drive which has already re-

duced the workforce by 1,700 since the company was privatised. At the same time Scottish Power said it would axe 350 jobs over the next 12 months at Manweh following its acquisition of the electricity firm.

The Labour party attacked the moves as the "latest utility jobs massacre". Ian McCartney, Shadow Employment Minister, said: "These latest job losses electricity firm, but added: "We come on top of more than 42,000 are happy to remain indepen-jobs already cut in electricity dent. What we are about is givprocess began in 1990."

He added: "Cutting staff may give quick fix to the balance. sheet, but it does not necessarily improve service to the cousumer, who also ends up paying for former utility employees to be unemployed."

One City analyst said that the planned reductions at Northern are an "interesting pointer" for the rest of the industry. "Most of these companies are still over-manned and under managed," he said.

David Morris, Northern's non-recurring property disposal chairman, said that 200 jobs in 1994. The interim dividend

would go both this year and next, with natural wastage then reducing the workforce each year by "approaching that" number. He added: "Our task is to make ourselves as cost. effective as larger players and clearly that is an uphill task."

Mr Morris said that the company has had approaches from a number of foreign suitors since the lapse of a hostile bid by Trafalgar House earlier this year but that there have been no "serious discussions". He hinted however, that the com-pany would be interested in

lue to our shareholders He was speaking as Northern announced a fall in pre-tax profits to £58.7m in the first half of the year from £63.4m in the same period last year. The fall was partly due to the £2.9m cost in advisors fees of issuing spe-cial dividends and preference shares as part of the company's package of shareholder sweeteners offered in defence of the

Trafalgar House bid. The results were also distorted by higher interest charges after a share repurchase and a of 12p represents an underlying increase of 7 per cent over last year. The company's shares closed unchanged at £5.83.

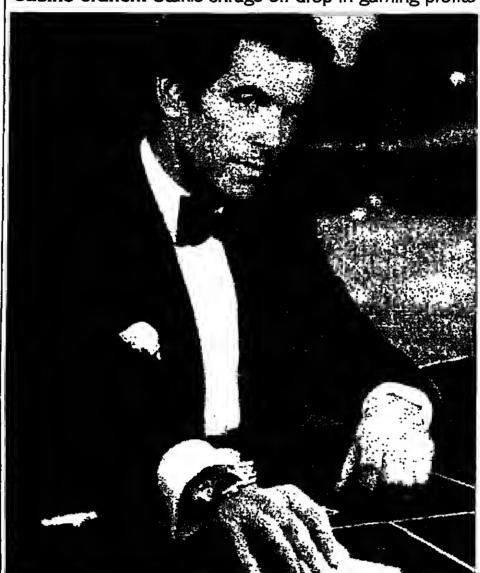
Mr Morris said that future growth prospects will come both from improved efficiency and from unregulated businesses, including gas production and retailing, power generation and supply of electricity to commerce and industry.

Separately, National Power and PowerGen received a fillip from the industry watchdog, Professor Stephen Littlechild, who said that he would not extend the price cap in the electricity trading pool beyond March 1996.

The cap was imposed in early about lack of competition. But recently PowerGen agreed the tions to Eastern Group, now part of Hanson. National Power is also on track for power stations disposals.

The statement by Professor

Littlechild comes as the Monopolies and Mergers Commission prepares to start an investigation into the £2.8bn bid by National Power for Southern Electric and PowerGen's £1.9bn proposed takeover of Midlands Casino crunch: Stakis shrugs off drop in gaming profits



Dealt a poor hand: The Glasgow-based group blamed the National Lottery, hot weather and Electricity.

Investment Column, page 20

entrance charges for its 7 per cent decline in casino profits to £11.7m last year. But Stakis recorded a 28 per cent rise in overall pre-tax profits to £25.8m Investment Column, page 20

20 millionaires in Goldman bonus payouts

JOHN EISENHAMMER Financial Editor

Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley launched a storming debut to the City bonus season yesterday with a handful of top executives at the US investment hanks each collecting bonuses around £1.5m. Even the cleaners at Goldmans have received 20 per cent on top of their basic salary, in celebration of what has turned out to he a vintage investment hanking year. Ahout 20 senior Goldman

staff in London, working at excentive director level in all the main sectors of the hank's acterday that they will he millionaires by Christmas. earning honuses closes to £1 m on top of their salaries. A few of the top husiness hringers have been awarded bonuses

well above that level. The 33 partners in London, who make up the elite of the privately owned investment bank, do not receive honuses but rather a share of the profits which is credited to their capital accounts. This pays interest, but the accumulated amount can only be cashed in when the partner retires. The

getting final notice of their share of the 1995 bonanza.

But the extent of the improvement in the hank's forlunes can be judged by the more than doubling of the firm-wide honus for what Goldman calls its support

This has risen to 20 per cent of hasic salary, as against just 8 per cent in the exceedingly difficult 1994, when many of the US houses took a severe hit in the turbulent American hond markets. But hoth Goldmans and Morgan Stanley yesterday said that, while the bonuses reflect the marked improvement in investment tivity - equities, mergers and banking fortunes, they are acquisitions, fixed income and still some way off the heights derivatives - were told ves- reached in the frenzied bull market of 1993. In that year. - firm-wide honuses were 30 per cent of hasic salary at Goldmans.

While the securities side of the husinesses has struggled for much of this year to make its mark, the hurst of mergers and acquisitions activity across Europe, and the high fees it has generated, has powered investment hanking and the City hack to the top of the high carning league.

All those houses with strong corporate finance departments are looking forward to partners will have to wait un- a substantial jump in their fil the end of the year hefore rewards.

Plain English to tax Revenue

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The Inland Revenue plans to devote a 40-strong team to a five-year project to rewrite 6,000 pages of tax legislation into plain English with the aim of making it easier to under-

The move, confirmed yes-terday by Michael Jack, the Fi-nancial Secretary to the Treasury, is a response to cria-cism of the complexity of the tax system in the run-up to the introduction of self-assessment It follows the publication of a Revenue report, The Path to Tax Simplification, which suggests that making the language of the legislation simpler will reduce compliance costs for business

Mr Jack said, in answer to a

the Government's deregula-tion initiative, the approach of self-assessment and continuing efforts to improve service,

quality and cost-efficiency. The development was broadly welcomed by tax practitioners who have argued that the complexity has made it difficult for them to advise their clients.

Ian Barlow, head of tax at the accountancy firm KPMG, said: "Business is finding it increasingly difficult to understand tax legislation. Tax simplification will provide more certainty and so reduce costs. This will help businesses and the economy as a whole. Practitioners will be able to advise their clients on their business plans much more effectively if tax law becomes clearer."

However, there are doubts parliamentary question, that about whether the plans will Michael Jack: 'Plans fit in the development fitted in with come to fruition. Gerry Hart, with deregulation initiative'

president of the Chartered In-stitute of Taxation, which has been heading the reform campaign, said that the scale and cost of the project - estimated at several million pounds -

might lead to it being aban-





doned if there were a change of government. When Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, made a commitment to the plan in last month's Budget, Philip Davis of accountants Ernst & Young said it was "particularly disap-pointing" that the speech con-

tained no real attempt to reach the goal of simplification. Tax legislation has grown from a mere 180 pages at the end of the First World War to 345 new pages of new law in the 1994 Finance Act alone. The amount of legislation this year is expected to be on a similar

scale.
Wholesale rewrites of tax legislation have already been undertaken in Australia and New Zealand. And the Revenue project is expected to take much the same approach of revising the structure without

Lloyd's rescue plan 'best bet for names'

Lloyd's of London's rescue plan for the insurance market received unexpected backing yesterday from a persistent critc, writes John Eisenhammer.

Chatset, the independent analyst, said in its annual report: "What Names must understand is that the alternative to Equitas is grim.

Equitas will take over responsibility for asbestos and pollution liabilities that have brought ruin to many Names. The total premium, to be di-vided among some 34,000 Names, will he about £1.9bn.

Charles Sturge, managing director of Chatset, said the hill that Names will face from Equitas- finally putting a cap on their losses - still looked the

"The overall loss hill facing Names just for the last two years has amounted to £2.6hn. Against that we think a £1.9bn total Equitas call looks pretty reasonable. If Names are offered finality, it seems a lot cheaper than having £1hn loss-es lobbed at you for the next 10

years," said Mr Sturge. He did warn Lloyd's, however, that it was trying to force through Equitas on the cheap. The market professionals managing agents, brokers and those who insure them - should contribute about £700m more, depended on its survival. "All of these groups have a consider-able interest in keeping Lloyd's alive." said Mr Sturge.

finance/ accountancy

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> See pages 15 - 19 section two

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Greenbury supporters turn guns on critics

PETER RODGERS

Tim Melville-Ross, director general of the Institute of a vested interest in seeing it fail. Directors, yesterday warned critics of the Greenbury Committee on top pay to stop fighting key recommendations and to support the whole of the report rather than undermine it.

Mr Melville-Ross, a leading member of the committee, said: Tinker with bits of it and you will undermine the whole."

His decision to go public is the highest-profile development in a campaign by committee members against a rearguard action from board-rooms to modify the Greenbury proposals, especially those on long-term incentive schemes and pensions disclosure.

pension fund representative on the committee, attacked "pow-erful voices" which he said had



'Mutterings': Tim Melville-

Last month Geoff Lindey, the Sir Richard Greenbury is also Independent amplifying remarks ension fund representative on understood to be conducting a in a speech last night to the private campaign at senior levels to defend his report.

Mr Melville-Ross put himself into direct opposition to his own president, Lord Young, the former chairman of Cable & Wireless, who called recently for an end to over-regulation of the

Mr Melville-Ross said: "We spent a long time trying to get the balance right. Not every member of the Greenbury Committee agreed with every detailed recommendation, but we all subscribed to the whole. The result should be recognised for what it is - an important step forward and an important bulwark against wholly unacceptable legislation."

Institute of Chartered Secretaries, Mr Melville-Ross said there were a number of issues where there was backsliding from Greenbury, both formally - in the drafting of new Stock Exchange listing rules and informally, when meeting people "at City cocktail parties".

The Exchange is responsible for changing its rules to take account of the Greenhury recommendations. Mr Melville-Ross said one concern on the listing rules was the Exchange's draft proposal that shareholders should vote on long-term incentive schemes only when they covered periods of three years

In an interview with the be a vote on anything longer

than one year but the Exchange's proposal "with the best will in the world" was an incentive to companies to pitch incentive schemes between one and three years, and prevent consideration by shareholders.

He also attacked the Exchange's definition of longterm incentive scheme, hul for being wider than the committee intended, catching pensions as well. "The way long-term in-centive schemes are being defined in the draft listing proposals appears to catch other things as well," he said.

The committee proposed tough disclosure rules for pensions based on the increase in value to a director each year, but asked the institute and faculty The report said there should of actuaries for a recommendation about how to calculate

this. The proposal caused a storm because it will show enormous annual pension values when directors receive large Mr Melville-Ross attacked an

attempt to water the actuaries' calculations down by averaging the value of pension increases over a number of years, which he said was "not to hide but to smooth the changes. I don't like the idea. If you are going to have a significant impact you ought to declare it and justify it to shareholders."

He said the informal "multerings" against the report included claims that the commillee had been too tough, for example in favouring one-year rather than two- or three-year contracts - although the report was worded to allow exceptions.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN Edited by TOM STEVENSON

A costly contest for Northern

Shareholders in Northern Electric will be cursing Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, for keeping it from the clutches of Trafalgar House. The shares have fallen 40 per coot against the market since the regulator stunned the sector in March by announcing a new review of electricity prices, the second within a year.
The move in effect put the kibosh on

the £1.2bn hid from Trafaigar, which has since unveiled such a tale of miscry that there is no realistic chance of it ever mounting a further hid,

Interim figures from Northern yesterday suggest another reason for shareholders to criticise Professor Littlechild. Gross profits fell £13.4m to £139m in the six months to September, mainly due to the first distribution price review last year, which tightened the cap on charges. The company did well to mitigate some of the effects of the review, cutting staff costs by £5.7m, but the higgest boost to slightly higher operating profits was the £11.1m cut in restructuring charges. At the pre-tax level, profits slumped from £63.4m to £58.7m.

The £2.9m costs associated with the company's "scorched earth" policy against Trafalgar – issuing a t00p-a-share special dividend and the bonus issue of preference shares - plus £3.4m in higher interest charges as a Little to cheer result of a share buy-back more than offset gains elsewhere. Meanwhile at Vaux

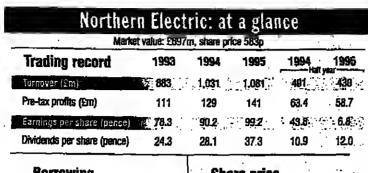
gearing has edged up a couple of points to 26 per cent since the year-end.

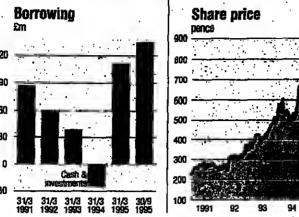
It cannot be denied that the company has delivered value to shareholders. It is passing through all the honefits of the interest in the Nationing up Northern's shareholding in the Grid, but the net dividends as well, worth 4.58p in these figures.

On top of that, the company is committed to pay another special dividend - expected to be 56.5p in February 1997-and increase the ordinary paynut by 7 per cent a year until the next century

Based on the company's forecast dividend of 39.9p for this year, the shares, unchanged yesterday at 583p, stand oo a prospective yield of 8.4 per cent. That looks high for what should be a safe earnings generator and 650p would put the yield oo a more realistic level.

well into the next century. Still not one





despite a 9 per cent rise in profits for the year to September. The fall means the shares trade on a yield of more than 5 per cent, well above the market

He should hardly have been surprised by the reaction of the City, which was disappointed by the headline profit number of £31.8m and a modest 3.6 per cent rise in the divideod to 10.2p. Analysts also had their worst fears con-

cation, nursing homes. Vaux picked up a lot of its 792 ten-With "clean" profits set to reach ancies receotly as part of the restructuring of the brewing industry since the price/earnings multiple of just 7 could beer orders and it is becoming in-tempt further bidders to enter the fray. creasingly clear that it acquired an extempt further bidders to enter the fray. Creasingly clear that it acquired an ex-tremely mixed bag. According to the shine off an impressive performance from Swallow Hotels, where occuby the eod of the decade, if preference sales are through pubs it considers to shares are included, and could stay high be in a good location, in good condisales are through pubs it considers to tion and with good facilities.

That would not matter so much if

most of the remainder were not in such poor locations that upgrading them is not a viable option. Buying a market for Vaux's hrewery output seemed like a good idea but getting rid of a long tail of underperforming pubs is a

heavy price to pay.

In Vaux's part of the world, the closure of the Durham collieries, a greater enthusiasm than elsewhere for the attractions of the National Lottery and a steady stream up the Al of vans loaded down with illegal booze from the Continent, led to a 6.3 per cent decline in beer sales, a poor showing compared with a 4 per ceot slide in the tied market as a whole.

In nursing homes, underlying profits were flat. Delays in registration of new residents meant that they were spending less time in the homes than was previously the case. Uncertainty over the funding of long-term care added to the uncertainty.

After sharply higher rents, however, profits slipped a worrying 14 per cent and it is not wholly apparent what Vaux has to offer that a specialist in the area does not.

pancy increased to 68 per cent, equal to the best ever achieved, and profits grew a useful 25 per cent to £19.7m. Managed pubs, flavour of the month in the City, increased 12 per cent to £7.6m although that is still only half the profit from tenancies.

On the hasis of a prospective price/earnings ratio of 14, the shares are high enough, especially given the slow growth ahead. The shares should be supported by their high yield but they won't

Stakis returns a lesson for Forte

Latest figures from Stakis, the Glasgow-based hotels-to-casinos group, give a clue as to just why Granada is so interested in Forte. Stakis squeezed close to a point of extra margin from its 41 hotels in the year to 1 October, taking the return on

sales to just shy of 30 per cent.
Impressive in itself, that figure compares with the 17 per cent that Forte, the market leader, managed to extract from its hotel assets in its most recent figures. Although Forte should have been able to improve on that this year, there is clearly a lot more to go for, particularly in its Post House chain, which broadly

competes with Stakis.

Conversely, it leaves the Scottish group with a problem created by its own success. The indigestion caused by overextension in the 1980s has been cured by new management, taking the shares from a low of 21p in 1992 to a peak of over 90p, hit in April last year. But since the beginning of the year, they have underperformed the FT All Share by close to 20 per ceot as the market ques-tions where Stakis goes from here. Yesterday's results provided only

some of the answers. Pre-tax profits rose 28 per cent to £25.8m, on turnover 19 per cent ahead at £173m. Hotels provided the engine of growth, boosted by profits up 26 per cent to £31.2m on the back of rises in both occupancy and room

The five units acquired during the year are all contributing and capital spending on the existing portfolio is being

stepped up. Meanwhile, as forewarned in October's trading statement, casinos did badly, with profits dipping from £12.5m to £11.7m, an underlying fall of £1.7m stripping out acquisitions. The fall in the "drop", the amount punters spend on chips, was blamed on the Lottery, the hot summer and visitor charges, which have oow been withdrawn.

Group profits of £30m this year would put the shares at 79p, down 3p, on a for-ward multiple of 14. With the tax charge rising, Stakis faces slowing earnings growth and may need to find an acquisition to keep the City happy. Hold.

Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

Corporate trauma is not over until the fat lady....

Lord Young of Graffham is spotted amid scenes of murder, mayhem and treachery. This time, however, the ousted chairman of Cable & Wireless is enjoying a performance of Puccini's Tosca at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden - with the obligatory youthful female companion.

Not that it is unusual to see the former Cabinet minister and director of Salomon Brothers in the company of a bunch of prima donnas. The man who nnce boasted that he worked at C&W and lunched at Salomons is a director of the Royal Opera House Trust. Besides, a man oeeds a break from the rigours of negotiating a massive redundancy package

However, Lord Young was not the only outgoing chairman in the audience. Not eight feet away sat Michael Jackaman, who on Monday stood down as chairman of Allied Domecq. Both looked suitably recovered from their respective traumas.

So! Only a piffling 0.4 per cent of the proxies cast at yes terday's Granada extraordinary general meeting were against approving the hid for Forte. Could this represent the combined voting power of Granada shareholders Sir Anthony Tennant, the Old Etooian chairman of Christies International, and George Proctor? Both, you understand, are oo Forte's hoard. We should be told.

The feeling in accountancy circles is that the Inland Revenue is planning a series of benders over the festive season. Andrew Shaw, a partner with Kingston Smith, writes to tell us that the vampires have increased the tax-free

The San Francisco Airport Hilton continues to blaze a trail on the marketing front with a promotion that London can only dream about. The 527-room hotel is charging guests the same room rate as the lowest temperature in the city that day. Given that the West Coast temperature is often in the 40s at this time of year, it comes as no surprise that the exercise has proven a hig attraction. The hotel's normal room rate is



Among the prima donnas: Lord Young of Graffham deals with the difficulties of redundancy

limit for Christmas parties. Strictly speaking, any staff party gives rise to a taxable benefit for those attending. However, the Revenue operates a concession where the benefit is not taxed if the expenditure oo the bash is kept below certain levels. The £50a-head limit is now raised to £75. And it gets better. The Reveoue is oow allowing companies to split the expenditure between more than one annual event, opening the way for tax-free parties throughout the year.

"No doubt the tax inspectors were planning their own Christmas parties and re-alised the costs involved,"

suggests Mr Shaw. A courageous joke. The Revenue is not known for its sense of humour and the accountant can more than likely

look forward to a thorough investigation of his affairs.

Not the sort of thing that the Hilton management can con-template at Heathrow. It would have been paying guests £7 a night for the last week.

Pearson shares rose yesterday oo the news of the boardroom shakeup which should see, inter alia, the arrival of John Makinson in the finance director's chair. Pearsoo has oot yet confirmed the ap-pointmeot — and quite right too. It is probably still trying to establish that the former Financial Times hack is no longer in possession of his original calculator.

It transpires that when he was a lowly mortal writing the FT's company analysis Mr Makinson gained a reputation for being incapable of calculating a price/earnings ratio correctly. "He insisted on using this lousy calculator," rerealed a former colleague.

The City is taken to the cleaners as Cambridge put on an error-strewn display at Twickenham for the rughy union varsity match. The spread betters had the light blues as firm favourites, riffering a contract for a Cambridge win by a margin of eight to 11
points. In the end Cambridge
scraped home 21 points to 19.
One bookie, Sporting Index, took 500 bets at an aver-

age of £20 a point. That's a good chimk of this year's bonuses down the pan already. And with only one

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read by Mike McShane
Evelyn Waugh, Scoop, read by Tony Britton
Robert Louis Stevenson, Kldnapped, read by David Rintoul
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British Land issue in danger

TOM STEVENSON Deputy City Editor

British Land shrugged off worries in the City yesterday that the property company, Britain's sec-ond largest, is struggling to get a £222m placing awny. The share issue at 370p, designed to reduce gearing of well over 100 per cent, closes tomorrow and looked in danger with the shares closing last night at just 368p.

The placing of 62 million shares was underwritten by SBC Warburg and UBS at the issue price although, as is usual practice, they both laid off most of the risk with subunderwriters on the day the is-

sue was announced. The recent slide in British Land's shares reflects worries among investors that the company may have over-reached it-self with the acquisition, announced last month, of the half of London's Broadgate office development that it did not already own. Although British Land only paid £120m for the half share, the deal involved taking on £800m of debts in the scheme, the interest on which is still not covered by rental income.

When the placing was announced, the shares stood 6 per cent higher than the issue price, giving shareholders an incentive to participate on the basis of one new share for every six held. Since then, however, the slide in the shares has eroded the discount.

The Broadgate acquisition, which British Land had pursued for two years, was the latest in a sequence of purchases that helped drive gross rents in the six months to September 31 per year to March.



confident about prospects

cent higher to £108.7m. During the first half year, profits in-creased 5.6 per cent to £18.9m and the interim dividend rose 5.3 per cent to 2.78p.

Despite the underperformance of the shares, Juhn Ritblat, British Land's chairman, painted a relatively bright picture of group prospects. "Over 80 per cent of our portfolio will have been acquired in the last seven years, the majority of those pur-chases having been in well located City offices, superstores, retail warehouses and leisure investments, all with good prospects for

long-term rental growth."
British Land has been one of the most successful property investment companies during and since the recession, mainly because, unlike many of its peers, it entered the slump with low borrowings and so was able to take on properties at attractive prices. Its growth has slowed recently, however, with net assets growing by only 1 per cent in the

	COMPA	NY RESULI	S	
	Temover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Bertisley Group (I)	146m (129m)	19.0m (17.Zm)	16.4p (15.4p)	2.3p (2.1p)
Bradsbeck (F)	33.4m (32.7m)	6.1m (8.2m)	6.0p (8.9p)	5.76 (5.76)
British Land (1)	-(-)	18.9m (17.9m)	2.5p (2p)	2.78p (2.64p)
Cray Electronics (I)	129m) (135m)	-14.6m (10.1m)	-6.3n (3 p)	nk (1p)
Ентосару (F)	24.2m (25.6m)	4.21m (3.61m)	6.66p (4.87p)	3.3p (2p)
Haima (1) .	20.8m (70.6m)	14.4m (12.5m)	3 61p (3.15p)	1.006p (D 84p)
Hoolers Armiey (F)	49.8m (41,1m)	4.07m (5.46m)	10.51p (10.81p)	4.50p (4p)
Herthern Electric (I)	430m (491m)	58.7m (63.4m)	8 8p (43.8p) -	12p (10.85p)
Place Property (I)	13.8m (11.2m)	1.1m (0.03m)	îp (0.1p)	1.5p (nli)
Protecu (I)	29.3m (23.8m)	194m (2.71m)	6 <i>9</i> 79 (5.3q)	1.6p (1.29p)
Stakts (F)	173m (148m)	25.8m (20.2m)	4.93p (4.27p)	1.75p (1.55p)
Yanck Group (P)	260au (244m)	31 &ra (29.3m)	17. 93 p (16.5p)	17.93p (9.85p)
(F) - Rical (I) - Interior	(M) - Nint months			

INBRIEF

Cray Electronics confirms loss

Cray Electronics, the troubled data comm whose shares have collapsed following a series of profits warnings this year, confimed yesterday that it had made a £14.6m loss in the six months to October. The loss compares with a £10m profit in the same period last year. The problems were due mainly to costs and provisions incurred at Cray Communications, the computer network subsidiary, which recorded a £4.8m loss in the

The new chairman, Alec Daly, made a cautiously optimistic statement, saying that though turnover was 5 per cent lower, orders were ahead of last year. The shares closed 0.5p higher at 47.5p vesterday.

Slim profit for clothing manufacturer

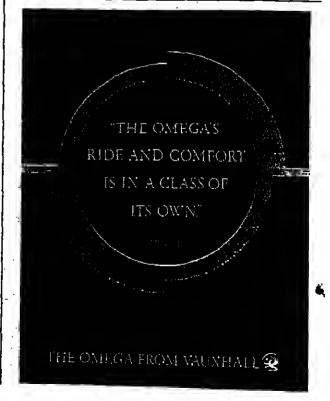
The hot summer and sluggish high street sales have savaged profits at Slimma, the manufacturer which specialises in clothes for larger customers. Profits for the year to September slumped to £33,000 from £1m last year and the dividend has been halved to 1.3p. Margins were lower due to a shift in the sales mix towards supplying more multiple retailers. Mail order sales were also down. The company says it has reduced overheads by selling a smaller factory and is keen to exploit its export husiness.

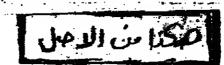
Eurocopy makes headway

Profits at Eurocopy, the photocopying group that receotly called off takeover discussions, were up from £3.6 to £4.2m in the year to September. The chairman, Cyril Gay, said restructuring within the industry presented the group with unique opportunities to expand. The final dividend was increased from 2p to 2.3p.

Travis Perkins buys builders' merchants

Travis Perkins, the builders' merchants, is paying £14m for BMSS, which operates a chain of 26 timber and builders' merchants to the West Midlands, Wales and Greater Manchester areas. The cash offer is worth 153p per share. In the year to January, BMSS reported pre-tax profits of £706,000 oo sales of £18.6m. The location of its branches complements those of Travis Perkins which are principally in the South-east and Midlands.





FT-SE 250 3,933.5 3.4



market report/shares

Investors continue to hang up on BT as worries grow

Investors are continuing to hang up on BT, the Governover spree is also taking its toll. ment's biggest privatisation adventure. The shares fell a further 4.5p to 343.5p, lowest

1.808.6 40.7 for three years. SEAQ VOLUME for three years.

The telecoms giant has been under increasing pressure in the past three months, with the share price collapsing from a year's high of 414p, as many small shareholders decided to snatch their profits before they disappeared. 707.9m shares, 27,898 bargains 95.89 +0.03

disappeared.
BT's increasingly rough relationship with the industry regulator is worrying the group, as

is the growing competition.

There is a feeling it is beginning to look like a staid old giant, tormented by many of the industry's smaller players.

With BT's margins under pressure and the stock market's profit forecasts looking less

positive there is plenty of room for disenchantment.

Cable and Wireless, still reeling from the boardroom upheaval, is rumoured to be one possible target. Another idea is it will buy Cable's controlling

stake in Hong Kong Telecom. Cable, up 5p at 446p, has pulled in ABN Amro Hoare Govett as joint broker with Cazenove - which could indicate that it suspects a bid is in

the offing.

A BT move for the outstanding shares in Cellnet, the mobile telephone group, would - of the possible deals being talked about - be the most popular. But Whitehall could decide to block BT di-

alling for full control.

BT is not, however, the unly privatisation share feeling the pinch as the stock market

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter

of the year

gains. The death of Sir David Lighthown MP, cutting the Government's majority to five, could further unsettle the mar-

WPP, the advertising group, edged ahead 1p to 152p. Mar-

tin Sorrell, who has made in-

vestment presentations in Scotland this week, purchased

100,000 shares at 150p and now

has 2.5 million shares, repre-

National Grid edged for-ward to 21 Ip and British Aero-

space staged a modest revival.

senting 0.34 per cent.

up 11p at 788p.

year's low. The group is beset by its deep-rooted image prob-lems as well as the ramifications of its long term gas

And just in underline what a poor day it was for privati-sation shares Rolls-Royce fell 2p to its 175p sale price while British Steel retreated another 3.5p to 158p compared with a 125p floration. Rolls, in early trade, touched 180p on talk of BMW share huying: British Steel continued to feel the

impact of the profit warning by the Usinor steel giant.

gain, up 10p at 365p.

The Camelot contingent felt the blast of Panorama. Cad-bury Schweppes slipped 2.5p to 548.5. De La Rne 9p to 660p and Racal Electronics 9p to 268p. Whispers of a Swiss bid lifted Rexam 9p to 337p but

Vickers, where some have talked confidently of take over action, fell 8p to 274p. BTG, the old British Technulngy Group, had an event-ful run, following its trading statement and dividend forecast. The shares surged 200p to 1.120p. The shares were floated at 225p in the summer. Alba, the consumer electrical group, gained 15p to 282p fol-lowing its investment dinner;

changed at 47.5p after its £14.6m loss. Waste Management In-ternational tumbled 23p to 323p on the profits warning but take over action lifted Goal Pe-

troleum, in talks. 21p to 89p. BMSS rose 32p to 150p foltinction of the best blue-chip lowing an agreed £14m offer

from Travis Perkins. AMEC stuck at 100p as hostile bidder Kvaerner lifted its

holding to 22.55 per cent. Wassall, the conglomerate, improved 6p tn 245p after a positive meeting with Hen-derson Crosthwaite. Burton

eased 2p to 128p as Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull said the shares were expensive. Sims, the food group, fell 3p to 35p on the continuing BSE uncertainty. There is, however, vague talk of bid action. Whitchurch - a meat products group headed by Barry Cox, ex-Hard Rock Cafe - is said to be

contemplating a strike. Sims has been having a lean Cray Electronics was little time and looks vulnerable. Profits have been his and in the first half of its current year it produced £150,000 against

shares hit 339p.

United Energy, the oil tid-dler, held at 11p. It has been reshaped and Peel Hnnt, the stockbroker, expects year's profits to emerge at £100,000 against a £360,000 loss and The group's interests are mainly in the US where it is tions. It has its eye on moving

into power generation in this ☐ Dealings are due to start on AIM next week in the shares of Polymasc, a fledgling biotech operation, hived off from the Royal Free Hospital medical school in Hampstead. Teather & Greenwood, the stockbroker. has placed shares at 100n. raising £5m and pricing the company at £20m. In the current highly charged biotech

Blue chips remained under the influence of lower interest crude price; British Petroleum trades oear its highest level. British Gas, another under The nagging suspicion that BT could indulge in what rate hopes but an uncertain
New York display eroded
added 8p to 533.5p and Enregulatory pressure, was down 1p at 227.5p. perilously near its

PHARMACEUTICALS MEDIA

Act | 200 | 356 | Absorb March | 279 | 440 | 270 | 366 | Absorb March | 279 | 450 | 270 | Adsorb March | 279 | 450 | 270 | 470 | 270 | 470 | 270 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 | 470 |

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THE INDEPENDENT INDEX

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MARKET LEADERS: TOP 20 VOLUMES

FT-SE 100 INDEX HOUR BY HOUR

RETAILERS, FOOD

RECENT ISSUES

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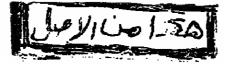
SPORT

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Sehanze Roy



Maktoum man questions Race Day plan

Criticism of plans for a Euro- the racing authorities and racepean version of America's course management to en-Breeders' Cup came last night from a leading adviser to the powerful Maktoum family.

Courage the public to attend racing," Goodbody warned.

"One only has to look at the

Gimcrack Dinner on behalf of

the Sheikh (whose Royal Ap-

plause won this year's Gimcrack Stakes at York), also called for

a breeders' representative on the British Horseracing Board

and an increase in prize mon-ey. But he stressed that his com-

personally wanted to raise were

Maktoum family"

not necessarily the views of the

questioned its imposition on an

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None

a SETTIME: 7-2 Granique, 4-1 Reel Proporte, 5-1 Ballyra, Kong Designer, 12-1 Handlon Sile, 14-1 others 1994: meeting aboutioned (course waterlagged) FORM GUIDE Form of the first of the second second second second sec

12.30 Hong Kong Designer 2.30 Frontier Flight 1.00 VILLAGE REINDEER (nap) 3.00 Nazzaro

GOING: Hurdes - Good; Classes - Good to Soft (Good in places).

Left-hand, undulating course; run-in 325yde.

Racecourse is 4 miles south-east of Wresham near junction of A525 and B5089. Bis service from Wresham railway station. ADMISSION: Paddock 58; Course \$4 (under-16s free all enclosures). CAR PARK: Pree.

ELEADING TRAINERS: G Richards — 27 winners from 113 runners gives a success ratio of 23.9% and a loss to a 31 level stake of 520.65; M Pipe — 20 winners, 71 numers, 29.2%, -512.40; N Twiston-Davies — 16 winners, 66 runners, 12 numers, 22 numers, 24 numers, 32 numers, 34.4%, -52.58.

ELEADING JOCKETS: R Durawoody — 26 winners, 83 rides, 31.2%, +528.21; A Magaire — 13 winners, 75 rides, 17.1%, -513.45; D Bridgwater — 11 winners, 66 rides, 16.2%, +511.22; N Wilkiamson — 10 winners, 46 rides, 51.7%, +51.75.

LONG-DISTANCE EURNERS: Karar (1.30) has been sent 212 miles by R Rowe from Storrington, West Sussex.

12.30 TOTE PLACEPOT NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 2m 1f Penalty Value

BALLYRAG, winner over 8 mile on the Fat in France as 8 time-year-old, will have learned something from his run behand Colonel in Chief at Kelso and might be good enough to make the most of the drop in class. Standique could be a begier threat than most, despite his inexperience. At least he comes here in far form having won a 10-futions seller on the all-weether at Lingfield towards the end of November when trained by Belgium-based Paul Smith, Like Bellyrag, Hamilton Stik, Jamalea Bridge and Good So Fa wan over a mile on the Fat. Good So Fa was soon in trouble when timed over hundles at Fakenham last week but Hamilton Stik stayed further and has Gordon Richards's good condisional, Bann Harding, on board. From a stammap point-of-wew, Jamalea Bridge might be worth the benefit of the doubt in this company, it was a bad race in which Real Popocom was second to Blessed Cliver at Ludlow but the hip might have been too far for her. A hard-pulling fely, Real Popcom made virually at when winning a claimer at Catterick in July last year and might not be easy to pag bock if she sets off in front over this shorter trip.

Michael Goodbody, stud manager to Maktoum al Makattendance on the Saturday Prix de l'Arc weekend in Paris toum, said a European Race or the Festival racing day at As-cot, where both meetings have Day could never match the prestige of the Breeders' Cup. top class racing, to see that the Goodbody, speaking at the

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Nazzaro (Bangor 3.00) NB: Duhallow Lodge (Exeter 2.15)

addition of a European Race ments on issues which he Day would certainly have a negative effect on both these top class day's racing in Europe." faktoum family".

He suggested that whatever money British racing puts towards the Race Day (Germany wards the Race Day (Germany) planned for September 1997, as wards the Race Day (Germany a wonderful concept" but is favourite to stage the inaugural meeting), the cash would

be better spent within the in-

3.30 Dublin Freddy

The similarity between Terry Casey, who will saddle Rough Quest in Saturday's Betterware Cup at Ascot, and David Nicholson, the champion trainer, is not immediately apparent. Nicholson's string, stabled within a few miles of Cheltenham it-

self, touches three figures, while Casey oversees fewer than 20 horses near Dorking in Surrey. Both men, however, awake each morning with the com-forting knowledge that, whatever else may happen, a salary cheque will be waiting for them at the end of each month. "I'm a public trainer but I'm

also retained by the Wates famlly Jowners of good performers including Repeat The Dose as well as Rough Quest] to train their horses on their premises at Beare Green," Casey said

"David Nicholson is an employed trainer in the same way as I am, though obviously on a much bigger scale, and I've got Casey is already planning a reawonderful set-up without the turn to Cheltenham next

Greg Wood reports on a stable in Surrey's stockbroker belt aiming its top steeplechaser at Saturday's big race at Ascot

the trainer says.

for a Rough diamond

financial pressure of some other trainers. There's never been any pressure since I've been here, because they're proper racing people and they know the game inside out."

Knowing that finding new owners is not the most important task in his life allows Casey to devote himself to his string. and in Rough Quest he has a horse to repay all his efforts. Successful at the Festival

meetings at both Cheltenham and Punchestown last term, Rough Quest finished runnerup to Couldnt Be Better in the Hennessy Gold Cup - his first completed run of the new campaign - and is the ante-post favourite for Saturday's £30,000 race at Ascot.

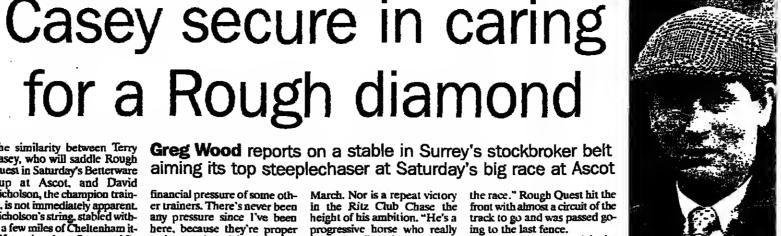
At nine years of age, Rough Quest is still improving and

the race." Rough Quest hit the March. Nor is a repeat victory in the Ritz Club Chase the front with almost a circuit of the height of his ambition. "He's a track to go and was passed going to the last fence.
Fitzgerald will be back in the progressive horse who really seemed to find his form in the

spring last year, and we'd hope plate on Saturday and, hopeto run him in the Gold Cup." fully, throughout this season. since Nicky Henderson's stable. his principal retainer, does not "He ran very well at Newbury for a horse who hadn't really got house an outstanding threea run under his belt, because he mile chaser at present. With Young Hustler sure to

fell at a crucial stage in his pre-vious race at Cheltenham, just set a good pace, and with a 9lb pull on Couldnt Be Better for as they were quickening up." Nor was the Hennessy run to the 14 lengths he was beaten at suit Rough Quest, who is best Newbury. Rough Quest must when held up for a late run and have every chance of reversing has formed a very profitable partnership with Mick Fitzger-ald. The Irishman, however, the form. To be worthy of a place in the Gold Cup he surely must do so. was suspended for the Newbury Few contenders for chasing's

greatest prize bail from Dork-



Casey: Quest for Gold Cup

deed, his latest stable is the fifth of a training career which has also seen a spell as private trainer to John Upson, while his apprenticeship, both as rider and handler, included employment with Aubrey Brabazon and Paddy Mullins. Now. though, Casey seems to

have found a secure base in the stockbroker belt from which to plot his campaigns. The trainer himself is not a gambling man, but if the locals wake up ing, but Casey has no regrets to the sound investment in about his move from the more their midst, the 3-1 price for traditional jumping country of Lambourn in June 1994. In-

Changes usher in new ball game

sport

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

At St Helens, Wigan and seven other professional rugby league grounds tonight, it will be a whole new hall game. The first tranche of games played under four new rules is bound to produce teething problems and Britain is undeniably being used as a guinea pig by the Super

League in Australia. The guinea pig might stag-ger around the laboratory for a while, but, provided it does not actually die. Super League on both sides of the globe will kick off under these rules in March.

Two of them carry fairly obvious benefits. Moving scrums 20 metres from touch opens up greater attacking opportunities and making the side that scores kick off to give the opposition possession promises to even up contests. "It is also in line with most other sports," says the League's director of referees coaching, Greg McCallum. That is significant when we come to promoting the game in America and Asia.

Wigan's coach, Graeme West, is understandably wary of a rule change that also seems aimed at bringing them back to the pack, but there will be a general welcome for both these moves.

Less easy to assess is the effect of the rule changes at the play-the-ball, where striking for the ball by the side not in possession will be outlawed and the tackled player will not be allowed to tap the ball forward to himself, even if there is no marker in position. It will clean up a traditional problem area, but will it leave something that still looks like rugby league? Steve Simms, whose badly in-

jury-weakened Halifax side are at Wigan tonight, will still base his strategy around the possibility of the tackled player regaining possession, even if he has to play the ball backwards. turn around, pick it up and then run upfield. "And we haven t struck for the ball for a while. because it's a waste of time for

the amount you get back.

One fear, particularly in the lower divisions, is that a game already too quick for many of its participants could get quicker still, lan Lucas, who will under the new rules for the first time against Doncaster tonight. believes the effect could be the opposite. "There is no point in the tackled player springing to his feet if he can't take advantage of there being no marker."

The full implications will not be clear until games have been played under the new rules, "We will know by the end of next week whether they are going to work," McCallum says.

Waiting in the wings are three other rules the Australians would have liked us to try - allowing ball-stealing in one-to-one situations, time off for goal locks and unlimited substitutions. The latter two would take the game much too far in the direction of American football for almost anyone in Britain's comfort.

The changes which arrive tonight will make it all look quite unfamiliar enough, but, as Simms says: "At least we all get the ball back when Wigan score. Great Britain's third Super

League international against Australia on 20 October could be under threat, following New Zealand's insistence that they have been guaranteed a match against Australia on the same Hull Kingston Rovers have

signed two World Cup players from Papua New Guinea: the centre, John Okul, 23, and the stand-off, Stanley Gine, 22. Widnes are considering a

formal complaint over Graeme West's accusation that they narrowed their pitch for last Saiurday's Regal Trophy tie against

Wigan.
The first representative match between the Civil Service and the RAF will take place at the Civil Service Sports Ground in Chiswick this afternoon.

★THE INDEPENDENT Horse Racing Results 0839 - 111 171 Commentary 0839 - 111 175

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already busy pattern race pro-gramme. "It is hard enough for dustry in Britain. BANGOR (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty HYPERION

1/U-4/U- TWO STEP RETYTHM (261) (D) (Mrs R E Stocks) J McConnectie 11 11 T 33122-4 MAN OF THE GRANGE (27) (C) (D) (R J Marshall) W Clay 9 11 5 _R Fernand

304014 FAST CRUSE (263) (CD) (Miss T Patell E Oven jun 10 10 10 .Richard Guest 9 BP3P4P- OPAL'S TENSPOT (299) (Mass Joy Mailes) J M Bradley 8 10 2 , R Johnson (8)

- 9 dectared BETING: 5-2 Procipico Rum, 7-2 Change The Act, 4-1 Villago Reindeer, 7-1 Fast Croise,
8-1 Waterford Castle, 10-1 Two Step Heythm, Distinctive, 12-1 others
FORM GUIDE:

Village Richideer's win over hurdles at Kelso looks a good effort, with the nuner-up, Great Easeby, going one better at Haydock on Saturday, Provided that hard-fought Kelso success has not left its reark, Village Reindeer could be difficult to best back over fences, although he will have to jump better than he did in the two chases he contested after winning a little race at Sadgefield on his reappearance less season. Perhaps the problem with Village Reindeer is his inexpenence, as this is only his fifth race over fences. WATERFORD CASTLE also has a bit to learn, howing fallen at Newton Abbot tast month. The selection, who has hed just three races over fences, won his only start two seasons ago for Andy Turnell, but did not shape bedly at Newton Abbot considering he missed all of last season. He could be better off over this chorter trip after falling to cope with Court Meladoy (winnier since) at Worcester, Watterford Castle gats 211b from Village Reindeer and that might just be enough if first-time blinkers have the desired effect. Precipics Run is in good shape at present and he must come into the rectioning with Rothard Durwoody taking the nide.

Selection: WATERFORD CASTLE.

		£2,152	with Court Melody (winner since) at Worcester. Waterford Castle gets 21lb for Village Reindeer and that might just be enough if first-brine blinkers have the :
L	0	RALLYRAG (16) (J C Parsons) R Fahey 4 11 5 L Wyer	sired effect. Pracipies Run is in good shape at present and he must come if
3	0	REPUS CHOICE (18) (W Sanderson) K Bodgweiter 4 11 5 S Joynes (7)	the reckoning with Richard Dunwoody taking the ride.
3	0	RICKERTON POACHER (74) (D McCain) O McCain 5 13 5 D McCain	Selection: WATERFORD CASTLE
		JAMANCA BRIDGE (Bay Parker) S Norton 5 11 5. O Pours	Daniel Willia Olio Cho.
5	000-P0	MOMENT OF RISTICE (34) (G A Martin) L Lungo 4 11 5 T Read	
;		BOBBIE'S GIRL (16) (Mrs Aune O'Suthan) J O'Shen 5 11 0	1.30 ASTBURY WREN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS I
7		REAL POPCORN (69) (BF) Freter Boscley) W Junks 4 11 0T Jenies	130 ASIBORI WALL INVIDENT HUNDLE (OLASS)
3		RUGRAT (19) (R Lincyton) 8 Proces 5 11 0	Zipov added Sin February Value 2-17552
•		GOOD SO FA (8) (Ms / Williams) C Atlen 3 10 5	1 5414-PP LOCH SCAVARS (21) (Abs 6 A Tumbell) O Morton 6 11 10
IO.		GRANNOUE (O J Stokes) W G M Turner 3 105 A Thornton	2 51-1433. CLIFTON SET (29) (Mrs Christine Fennelli C Marin 4 11 3
ü		HAMBILTON SILK (Newtork Embosons Lin) M Meagher 3 10 5 B Harding (3)	3 06-4131. PHARANEAR (21) (Stanless Fasteness) O Nicholson 5 10 10
12	57	HONG KONG DESIGNER (21) (Group 1 Rooms A James 3 10 5 W Marston	4 13-4621 KARAR (21) (D) (Mrs Manager Sampson) R Rome 5 10 5
13		MORTHERN TROVE (Cade Let) Ronald Thompson 3 10 5W Pry	5 13/1-065 DESSINGTON DENE (4) (DA & W WATER / Norton 6 10 5 W
14	00	ROSCOMMON LAD (5) (Mess S Hollershead) R Hollershead 3 10 5	6 PUCS GP. LINKSHIDE (371) (D) (Mrs S J Le Grost M Meagner 10 10 0 L.W)
		M W Morto (7)	7 111/0PO HAPPY HORSE (6) (D) (Major 1 Manning) R Hodges 8 10 0 T Descounds
5	0	RATY KOO (20) (N O Alsop) P Bevan 3 10.0 T Bey	8 3313-03 KADARI [7] (H Clevitovi) W Clay 6 10 0 R Johnson
6		LADY LANCER Hance DK Lt-3 Callen 3 100	-8 declared -
		Department have done out a street of the Department of 1000 D. Letter of the	- d (secreted -

ton Dece, 20-1 Linkside, 25-1 others FORM GUIDE

Cliffien Set, who has yet to run a poor race this season, is another possible winner for Richard Durwoody this afternoon and Karrar must make his presence thater his improved performance to bear 1.T others at Chepstow three weeks ago. Both are well suited by three miles or more but, on this course, PHARAMEAR is Both are well suited by three miles or more but, on this course, PHARANEAR is well worth enrother chance at the trip. His earlier attempt at three miles was in the Chepstow nowce won by Pleasure Shared, but that was also his first outing since moving from Aidan O'Erlen to Dand Nicholson and may just have been needed. Pharanear might have been a bit fortunate to win on a return trip to Chepstow (Gulogy was in front and still going incely when he came down two out), although he and subsequent Towcester winner Buckhouse Boy pulled well clear of the others. The selection is relatively inexperienced over hundles, and can improve. Loch Scarweig has not taken to chasing so should appreciate being back over hundles. The mare won under a similar big weight at Ayr in April, but whisther she can do the same here depends on how the reacts to wearing a visor for the first time. sor for the first time.

2.00 ST. HELENS FORD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D)

race, and Jamie Osborne, his re-

placement, was "a bit unlucky",

according to Casey. "They went

no pace and he was jumping so well that he jumped his way into

L		£5,500 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value
		£3,973
1	154P-01	HERRIDEAN (16) (D) (P A Deal) O Nicholson 8 11 6
2	112-	QUITE A MAN (240) (WR J Everall) W Jerris 7 11 4T Jenks
3		AMY'S BOY (8 P Moore) Mrs H Parmit 6 11 0R Davis
4	034-P	BORO HELL (39) (Roger Allsop) R Allsop 6 11 ()
5	622/04F-	EVEN BLUE (357) (Mrs C Black) Mrs C Black T 110
5	55/5/5-2	HAWKFELD (20) (The Hedonsis) C Broad 8 11 0
7	QP.	LOBSTER COTTAGE (7) (Major-Gen R L T Burges) K Balley 7 11 0 Doubtlet
В	60660P-	PARISONS BOY (288) (B Ridge) G Richards 6 11 0
9	60535-3	SEYMOUR SPY (29) (Mrs. June Burnett) Mrs A Hewit 6 11 0
10	F34544.	APRIL CITY (281) (I I Goursey) C Smith 6 10 9
		- 10 declared -

BETTING: 4-11 Hebridean, 8-1 Handfield, 10-1 Paraces Boy, 12-1 Seysbour Spy, 14-1 Amy's Boy, Quite A Man, 20-1 others FORM GURDE

FORM CUIDE

HEBRIDEAN, a classy staying hurdler, took to fences at the first time of asking, beeting stablements King Lucifer in pleasing style at Wornester 16 days ago, Hebridean could easily turn out to be one of the top howice chasers this season and will be a prenty short proce to dely a penalty in a face that provides less competition then he faced at Wornester, Best of the others is probably Hewkiffield, who cheed home another smart hurdler-turned-chaser, Calisce Bay, at Ution-cert three weeks ago, Hawkifield should have benefined from that first outing in 13 months and feel more at home over this extra four and a half furiones. Most of the nother charges that how were high Control in Charact, this season disk of the L3 months and real more at nome over rots extra four and a pain unones, Most, of the nowher bears that have won for Gordon Richards this season do so first time out, so Parsonas Boy could be fairly forward on his first run since pulling up lame behind Dorin Castle at Catterfok in February, He was numming an improved roce in first-time blinkers that day but goes without the headgear this time, Parsona Boy is a half-brother to General Command, the winner of three chases for the stable already this season, and Parsona Boy might do better himself now his tackless ferices.

RED COAT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HUR-2.30 RED COAT CONSTITUTION ALL DOCKETS FIRE WAR IN VAI-

		00 24-000
1	085-024	THROWER (5) (Mark Owen) 8 Proces 4 11 12 6 Hogan
2	522130	FRONTER PLICHT (5) (Mess L Selden) Mess L Selden 5 11 11 E Hosbiand
3	0/0/60-0	PER THERTY NEWE (20) (Mail Englis) J Parkes 9 11 2 R McCorthy (5)
4	00/5-FP0	OLD MONEY (13) (Uncle Jacks Pub) C Board 9 11 1Y J Murphy
- 6	300-	BADAWI (FR) (362) (Gyn Hans) N Babbage 5 11 1R Johnson
6	P00-216	STEADFAST FLITE (13) (CD) (J Clayton) J J O'Neil 4 11 0 A Roche
7	210058	CHRIS'S BLEN (13) (Tote End Racing Out) J M Bradley 6 10 13 Guy Limits
8	004550	TAKE A FLYER (229) (R Hodges) R Hodges 5 10 13T Dancombo
9	326500	RANGOW WALK (34) (T G h Construction Ltd) J O'Shea 5 10 10
1	D PIPPPO	WILL IT LAST (228) (D) (Mrs Theresa Walshe) IR Brotherson 9 10 6.8 Handled
1		SEASON'S STAR (288) (2) Rodencki O Burchell S 10 4 Prior (7)

- 11 declared -8 declared
Minimum weight: 11st. True handkap weight: Linkide 9st 8th, Happy Horse 9st 7th, Nadari
8st 10th.

BETTING: 3-1 Chris's Sten, 7-2 Stendilast Elies, 5-1 Timower, 8-1 Take A Flyer, Frontier
Fight, 10-1 Badami, 11-1 Pier Teatry Nine, 14-1 Others
FORM GUIDE

STEADFAST ELITE has a 4to pull for the helf-length that Chris's Gless best her when they were fifth and south behind Most Equal at Levcester last time out, but what might help her more is being back on this easier track, where she best subsequents on her previous start. The form of that Leicoster roce has not worked out body, because the second and third, Salsong and vicerny Ruter, both came out to win at fellenthar tast Thursday, Frontier Flight put himself out of contention with a bed mistake at the fourth in Mr Monerty's race at Doncaster on Finday, Otherwise he has not done much wrong this season and is far from out of it. Bell Precoc and Gerard Hogan were the trainer and jockey when Frontier Flight, won at Worcester in September and they will not be far away if Thrower can put behind him a moderate effort at Lution last time. The fast ground, ratter than the trip, might have been responsible for that, as Thrower ran well in staying handicaps on the Flat in September and again when beating all bar Absalom's Piller in a big feel of Market Rasen. Badewi would not be the first to come good when making a handicap debut but would not want the ground to deteriorate. It was good when he was a fair third to Encore Un Peu first time over hurdes and fast when he doe best on the Flat in sellers when littled with blinkers). dies and fast when he did best on the Flat (in sellers when littled with blinkers). Selection: STEADFAST ELITE

MAESFEN HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £6,000 added 4m 1f Penalty Value £4,319 314-344 SURLEY BAY (12) Min Carole Solmen) P Nicholis 9 11 10 .

	DESCRIPTION LOSS (TT) IN 1 MAY U.E. SYCHOLOGY 1 MICRORIANT TO TT 3 C MICRORIAN
	HARTON WHEN (18) (C H Stevens) M H Easterby 9 11 5 Wyer
20FP:1F	FLORIDA SKY (11) (BF) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 8 11 5 G Bradley
	NINFA (27) (BF) (Lord Cavendish) G Richards T 11 4
2134.1	NAZZARO (29) (A Morrsh) W G M Turner 6 10 11
422-13	KEANO (29) (BF) (Midavon Partnership) P Hobbs 6 10 6
	RUSTINO (21) (Cadz Lid) W 5 Cunningham 9 10 2
133-	PENNINE PRIDE (331) (Mrs W A Beaumont) M Hammond 8 10 2
	Mr C Bosner (3)
T7155	CONTRACTOR AND A LANGE CONTRACTOR AND

Minimum weight: 10st. True nandicap weights: Hey Cottage Sist 12to, Very Cheering 9st 7tb,

Minimum weight 10st. True handsop weights: Hey Cottage Set 12in, Very Cheering Set 7th, Crown Syegless.

BETTING: 7-2 Keeno, 4-1 Habton Whin, 5-1 Flenda Sity, 6-1 Diamend Fort, 15-2 Sunley Bay, 8-1 Reafs, Nextano, 14-1 Resideo, 20-1 others

FORM GUIDE.

With 16 Furnners, it was a competitive race in which HABTON WHIIN made his reappearance and he must be littler for a reappearance run behard high Podre at Newcestle, With Peter Easterby's horses bithing over nucly, Habton Whin should run well in this marathon, bearing in mind he was beaten only a neck and half a length when therd to Pork Gin in the Lincoinstine National over this tip lest Bowing Day, Diamsond Fort was pulled up on thal occasion, and on his first run of the season at Chepstow, but is another with the necessary stamina and could do better here, He was runner-up to Tartan Tyrant at Haydock on his second run last term after being pulled up a formight earlier. Florida Sity got no further than the first at Towester last time but is better judged on an earlier Chettenham win time Trabot and could easily bounce back here. He probably has more room for improvement than most of these after being off all last season. Richard Dunwoody, who won an Nazzario at Newton Abbot Iwhere Reamon the not give his time running, switches to Narfa, who is united at this tip but promises to stay and is well worth considering with her stable going so well.

3.30 YELLOW COLLAR OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) 52.000 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £1.711 15 GOLDEN DRUM [14] (BF) (Howard Parket) J Ethents 5 11 11 _R Johnson (3) 05 CAREY'S COTTAGE (211) (Cotage Parkets) J Ethents 5 11 4 _____ Nh M Daby (7) 3 DENNAM HILL [18] I E Brent (1 Mana 4 11 4 _____ Nh M Pachet) (He) (7) 4 DURLUM PREDOY (Mr. Care South 10 Ncholson 4 11 4 _____ W Marshon 5 4 GOATSFUT (14) (D Jones) 8 Preces 5 11 4 _____ G Hogism (3) 7 ACCUSE (Ashey Labora) M Meagine 5 11 4 _____ G Hogism (3) 7 MANE A BUCK (No. A 6 Natural Lungo 5 11 4 _____ F Penalt (3) 8 WILLING (Mr. South Marin 1 Lungo 5 11 4 _____ F Penalt (3) 8 WILLING (Mr. South Mr. A South M. Care (4) 11 4 _____ Massey (5) 9 MINIST (Mr. A South M. A South M. Care (4) 11 4 _____ Massey (5) 9 MINIST (Mr. A South M. A South M. Care (4) 11 4 _____ Massey (5) 9 MINIST (Mr. A South M. A Sout

A4 PRINNSTON (18) (T J Paroxi) Mrs H Paroxi 5 11.4 ... 11 4 _____ M Keightey (7) O RAISE AND GAIN (18) (W Chinn) N Twiston-Daves 4 11. en I Wall 4 10 13. KAYTU'S CAROUSEL IMISS & C Gabons! Mist Venetra Wilkams 6 10 13 ...

OS LADY LOS (36) IS A Dean 8 Preces 2 10 13 _______ See 0-5 ONE SIGNE DIME (36) U Needham J Needham 5 10 13 _Mr R Thom HOC AGE (M W Daves) G Daves 4 10 13 ______

- 17 declared BETTING: 4-1 Dublin Freddy, 9-2 Golden Dram, 5-1 The Sittcher, 6-1 Denham Hill, 8-1 Goetsfut, 10-1 My Cheeky Man, Rabe And Gein, 14-1 others
FORM GUIDE
THE STITCHER, burkered for his debut at Ayr, did better at Hecham three weeks ago without the headgear, running Northe Prince to three parts of a length. Northe Prince had won at Worcester beforehand. Like The Stricher, Goatsfut and Golden Drums are more or less guaranteed fit after fireshing fourth and fifth, only a neek apart, in the Hereford race won by Badger's Lano. All three have the benefit of expendice, atthough lack of a previous outing has not stopped Dawd Nicholson withing his strare of these roces with newcorners, so Dublin Freddy and My Cheeky Man must be respected.

Selection: THE STITCHER

Find out who showed their form last night. 'SPORT LIVE AT BREAKFAST Weekdays 7.30am LIVETV

Look on the bright side.

Maguire ready for Ascot return

Adrian Maguire, who rode out on Saturday, though Northern within half a length of a for boss David Nicholson for the -based rider Tony Dobbin, now £270,000 payout for 20p after second day in succession yes- fully recovered from the hand Saturday, Dave Roberts, the jockey's agent, said later.

terday morning, will be back on and shoulder injuries which Maguire expects to be on to return at Catterick on Friday. him to settle for just £25,481 for some top contenders at Ascot Abetting shop punter came his Coral Lucky 31 bet.

HYPERION

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in a few places).

Right-hand, undulating course. Stiff test. Run-in of 250 yards.

Racecourse is 6 miles south-west of Exeter on A38. Exeter (S. Davids) is on main London (Paddingson) to Cornwall railway line.

ADMISSION: Grandstand & Paddingson) to Cornwall railway line.

Companied under-16s free). CAR PARE: 52 on rails; 52 members; remainder free.

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Romany Creek (2.15) won at Leicester on Wednesday. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Laks Alexra (1.45) has been sent 306 miles by W Clay from Saverley Green, Staffs.

30 BILLY BARTER (22) G Baiding 5 11 8 B CHillord
131123 NORDIC WALLEY (9) (5) M Ppe 4 11 8 D Bridgenfor
06- LONZA WALLEY (9) (5) M Ppe 4 11 8 D Bridgenfor
04- LONZA WALLEY (9) (5) M Ppe 4 11 8 D Londry
34-1121 NORDITHERN STABLIGHT (20) R Baider 4 11 4 M A FROGRAND
P12023 LITTLE HOOLIGAM (20) (5) G Edwards 4 11 0 A P NoCoy
5-0017 PRISC MIE (8) M Churches 5 10 11 Mr L Jefford
0-0 This GAMPTER (9) C Mask 4 10 12 C Macde
40013-5 FLEUR DE 70L (5) (6) W G M Turner 4 10 9 M R Richard Walter (7)
5-00NY MISSIAL W G Turner 6 10 9 Mr Richard Walter (7)
0 DUNLITY (20) S Cole 4 10 1 R Bailmony
1 10 DUNLITY (20) S Cole 4 10 1 R Bailmony

145 WESTERN MORNING NEWS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,400

PIL-PEP MINE A MILLION (S) M Barration 4 11 3 _____ D Gallagher 4200-50 LING AKURA (12) W Clay 7 11 2 _____ A P McCoy

added 2m 3f 110yds

4200-50 LINS AKURA (13) W Clay 7 11 2_

temporarily severed his part-

picking the first four winners at Wolverhampton yesterday. But his fifth selection, Rousitto. nership with One Man, expects was pipped at the post leaving

12.45 Little Hooligan 1.15 Ground Nut 1.45 Man-zoor Sayadan 2.15 Romany Creek 2.45 Royal Ag Nag (nb) 3.15 Tight Fist

2.15 EDIMBOURG HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 7f 110yds

1 11F9-40 GWUS A BUCK (18) O Bavorth 12 12 0 ... P Holley
1 114-321 DUHHLION LODGE (20) C Barvell 8 11 5 ... D Bridgester
3 FP1-212 STRUNCH BYNL (39) (0) G Tromer 8 11 5 ... M A Fitzgerald
4 FP9-400 BENIOPS ISLAND (13) (0) Mes H Mrght 9 11 2 G F Rynn (8)
5 3-22131 ROMANY CREEK (7) G Bailing 6 11 0 (6es) ... A P McCoy
6 56/38-46 LITTLE TOM (13) J Kng (10 10 3 ... B Upton
BETTERS 24 Detrollment Lodge (2) Designer Creek (2) Strung Block

- 5 declared - 6ET(NN: 2-1 Diskellow Lodge, 5-2 Rountry Crock, 3-1 Steanon Rival, 8-1 Street, 10-1 Blokops Inland, 12-1 Little Tom

30 Billy District Process of Charles of the Control of

2.45 HENRIETTA KNIGHT BIRTHDAY NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 2m 2f

DOC-3 LADY BREYFAX (36) Mrs J Scietomon 5 10 0 Mr J John

— 11 caccarate —
Min weight: 10st. The handbap weights Phable Grove 9st 10th, Needwood
Native 9st 9th, Carnhai Kid 9st 4th, Alabrative 9st 3th, Lady Breyfor 9st 2th,
BETTENES 5-1 Parhaps, 21-2 Royal Ag Nag, 6-1 Supermick, 13-2 AndBiotenmomorles, 7-1 Dark Nightingale, 10-1 Phable Grove, 12-1 others.

3.15 GEMINI RADIO HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £4,750 added 2m 2f

3 2/4F34 CADCHON (291) R Froz 8 11 6 ______ J Frost
4 341344 LINIOT BLUE (15) (C) N Tromson 8 11 4 _____ A P McCay
5 325500 STATAMACK (11) O Essorth 7 11 2 ______ P Hotley
5 510.360 NEEP ME IN MAND (11) N Marchel 8 11 0 _____ D Shyrms
7 521P-PP LACKENDARA (15) Mass H Kright 8 10 8 _____ J F FRost (5)
8 62-4212 TROMT FRST (23) Mass H Kright 8 10 8 _____ J F FRost
9 183F HE'S A NORG (20) C Pophern 5 10 4 _____ MA A Regionald
10 02/31-0 SECRETARY OF STATE (8) O ACCUPACY 9 100 _____ J Dishorms
- 10 dischared BETTWEE 9-4 Rundway Pets, 3-1 Booksanee, 4-1 Tight Flat, 8-1 He's A King, Statajack, 10-1 Cabochona, 12-1 Locky Man, 14-1 others

RESULTS

FOLKESTONE

12.30: 1. DONTORES STORDINNER (7 Describe) 7-1: 2. Night in A Million 33-1: 3. Meanus Million 13-8 to 8 rans. 3. 5. (C Popham). Tota: £7-10: £1.70: £4.40. £1.20. Df: £55.10. CSF: £135.66. Incast: £493.65. £1.00: 1. EQUITY PLAYER (0 Waish) £1.4 tor; 2. Woodlands Boy 5-1: 3. Full of Oats 3-1. 8 rans. 5. 6. (R Curus, Epsom). Tota: £4.60: £1.80. £1.80. £2.20. DF: £7.80. CSF: £17.03. Incast: £41.06. Tro: £20.00. NR: Columnia.

2010. Hospital Paris (1900). 130: 1. Happy HOSTAGE (A P McCo) 130: 1. Happy HOSTAGE (A P McCo) 130: 2. 2. Clowate Lady 11-2. 3. Vallant Toold F-1. 14 run, 3-1 fev Tickerty's Grit. 1-1. 7. 1 White, Wendover, Tota: 27.70: £2.90. 15.60. (20.00. Dr. £22.80. CSF: £41.23. Tree

U Write, Wendower). Tota: £1.70; £2.90, ES.60, £2.00. DF; £22.80, CSF; £41.23, Inc. £56.60.

2.00: 1. NO PAIN NO GAIN (P Hidel 6-5 kay, 2. Lookout Mountain 7-1; 3. The Golfing Currite 25-1, 12 ram, 6, 4, U Glörot, Fridor). Tota: £1.80; £1.00, £6.90, £11.60. DF; £15.60, CSF; £10.85; Inc. £128.10. DF; £15.60, CSF; £10.85; Inc. £128.10. DF; £15.00, £1.10, £2.40, £3.00, 0F; £8.40, CSF; £17.10, £1.40, £2.40, £3.00, 0F; £8.40, CSF; £9.72. Thouse: £22.187, Inc. £140.20, NR; Sister Stephene.
3.00: £1.16 CHAPRASS (D Bridgester) 10-11 feet, 2. Chal-Yo, 5-2; 3. Sounds Like Part 8-1, £10, £2.50, DF; £9.30, CSF; £9.58.

3.30: £1.40APRASS (D Bridgester) 10-11 feet, 2. Chal-Yo, 5-2; 3. Sounds Like Part 8-1, £0, £1.50, NR; Wallington, Yota: £2.20; £1.10, £1.50, NR; Mullintor, Part 8-1, £1.20; £1.20, £1.20, £2.70, DF; £4.60, CSF; £4.18, Nno; £1.50, NR; Mullintor, Place &t £30.78, Place &t £30.20, Placeoport £21.20

WOLVERHAMPTON

WOLVERHAMPTON

1.15: 1. CONTECTS LEGEND (Mrs. I. Pearce) 10-1; 2. Marriot 5-1; 3. Alpine Storm 25-1; 12 ran. 11-4 lav Hill Farm Dancer (4th). 6, 2. U. Bottomiey, Malron). Tothe: £5.80; £2.50, £2.50, £2.50, £5.10. 15: 10. DF: £23.80. CSF: £52.63. Trosas: £1.093.80. Tro. £90.10. 1.45: 1. LITTLE IBNR (America Sanders) 9-4 to; 2. Crotan Gift 7-1; 3. Sing With The Band 7-2. 13 ran. nl. 5. IP 0 Evans, Weishpool, Tothe: £3.90; £1.50, £2.50, £1.50. DF: £18.10. CSF: £16.98. Tro. £11.10. 2.15: 1. HONESTLY (S. Sanders) 12-1; 2. Chilbrang Bang 10-1; 2. Mythons Michaele 9-1; 12 ran. 7-2 Infans Bub Piper & Itsmitheous, 4. 17: 18 Smarth. Tothe: £21.00; £2.60, £2.30, £2.00 PF: £36.60. CSF: £114.46. Trosas: £1.031.79. Tro: £167.40. 2.46: 1. LITTLE SCARLETT IN Cartaleo 14-1; 2. Forzale 8-1; 3. Masters Millfield 16-1; 12 ran. 7-2 fav Dr. Caligan (4th). shinds, 6, P. Malkin, Ogbourne Maskyl, Tothe: £12.40; £3.90, £2.00, £2.70. DF: £84.40. CSF: £157.76. Trosat: £1.63.21. Tro: £157.50. NPC David Jemes Gift. 3.15: 1. MONKEY ZANTY (D. Wingh) 33-1; 2. Markino Street 7-2 co-fax; 3. Lady Ecial 7-2 co-fay: 3. Lady Ecial 7-2 co-fay: 3. Lady Ecial 7-2 co-fay: 13 ran. 7-2 co-fax 3. Lady Ecial 7-2 co-fay: 13 ran. 7-2 co-fax 3. Lady Ecial 7-2 co-fay: 13 ran. 7-2 co-fax (3. Lady Ecial 7-2 co-fay: 13 ran. 7-2 co-fax; 3. Lady Ecial 7-2 co-fay: 3. Lady Ecial 7-2 co-fay: 13 ran. 7-2 co-fax; 3. Lady Ecial 7-2 co-fay: 13 ran. 7-2 co-fax; 3. Lady Ecial 7-2 co-fay: 3. Lady Ecial 7-2 co-fay:

European Championship qualifying play-off: The Netherlands v Republic of Ireland, Anfield, 8pm

Orange, green and white night

GUY HODGSON

There are two reactions to the colours of Ireland and the Netherlands. The Irish, and even those using it as a flag of international coovenience, see the tricolour and are seemingly imbued with patriotic desire. The Dutch use theirs as a basis for an argument.

No oation in football dissipates its talent with needless rows like the Netherlands. Io 1978 they might have won the World Cup if Johan Cruyff had not been sulking elsewhere and in countless international competitions since, the loudest noises coming from their camp has been the sound of hrokeo

sane observer would place the Dutch in the top 16 nations in Europe yet they have to face the Republic of Ireland in a playoff at Anfield for next summer's European Championships. This the legacy of another bust up about style and formation.

Indeed had Guus Hiddink, the Dutch coach, oot had his thinking charged by a cribe by the Ajax players earlier this year they might have been de-nied even a chance of making it to England by the back door. Now the Netherlands play it the Ajax way and Hiddink is a

"It's difficult," Marc Overmars, the Ajax winger, replied diplomatically, when asked why the Dutch began their qualifi-catioo period so badly. They needed to win their last three

matches just to make it to Anfield. "I have been asked that so many times. The last few games it is Ajax style but before that it was a little different. Maybe."

For maybe read definitely. As a consequence the Dutch team tonight will have eight players from Ajax, something

REP OF IRELAND IL STEEL

that her pleased the Irish notwithstanding the Amsterdam side's status as the European Cup holders and world

club champions.

VIMI DER SAK

"A lot of countries have tried to base national teams round club sides - England tried it with Liverpool a few years ago - and it's oever worked," Jack Charlton, the

ing the best in a country.

The intrigues in the Dutch camp are not mirrored in the Republic's, who are thrilled to have any chance of playing in the finals at all after conceding 10 goals in their last five matches, only one of which was won. Even Chariton, grumpy as an old grizzly before the last qualifying game in Portugal, has a serenity before a match that might see the end of his nineyear term in charge of the Irish.

"I'm not too bad actually," he said. "My mind isn't dwelling on the game as much as it has in the past. Mainly because I know we're playing a good side. They're probably expected to beat us. I'm relaxed because of the expectancy."
History layous the Duan

who put the Irish out of the European Championships in 1988 and expelled them from the World Cup in the United States in Orlando last year. The difference this time, according to Charlton, is that the match is being played on Ireland's terms.
The venue, in the heart of

the Irish community in Engbut so is the cold, dank air and the inclusion of a tall target man, round which the Irish attack in swirls. In Orlando neither the debilitating humidity nor the lack of Niall Quinn and Tony Cascarino were in their favour and they lost 2-0.

"We were forced to readjust," Charlton said of that disappointment. We like to play the ball behind people, we like to coodense areas and we well and his touch has im- lected four - Jeff Kenna and when we lose possession. You



Back to back: The Irish manager Jack Charlton (left) and his captain, Andy Townsend, in training yesferday

Photograph: Bob Collier/Reuter

TONY COZIER

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currently 17,000 to harton total of Acces Richardson the story on the Control of the

like to chase them. We can do that in these temperatures but we couldn't in America. We're back to what we do best."

Cascarino, a revelation for Marseille this season, plays tonight as Quinn is suspended. "He's a big strong lad," Charl-ton added, "who moves about proved for being in France. We've used him in the past to replace Niall. I see no problem."

One problem Chariton does perceive, however, is the threat of the Dutch wingers, Over-mars and Glenn Helder. Estimating that two full-backs might not be enough he has se-

fianks from midfield in addition to Gary Kelly and Denis Irwin. John Aldridge, too, will oper-ate from a withdrawn position.

"We've never played two wheo the ball's there."
up front," Chariton said: That last equation will be "We've always had one striker solved only if Irish enthusiasm coming back into midfield

Terry Phelan to guard the lot come to me and say five across midfield is a defensive formation but it doesn't have to be. It depends how many people you throw forward wheo the ball's there."

can bridle the Netherlands'

never had the himry of having

matches called off the Saturday

before an international - and

our home games were on Sun-

days. It was nothing for me to

play somewhere like Ipswich,

change quickly, get a lift or a taxi to the station, and try and

make the ferry from Holyhead

then I'd get my head down on

a bunk. Sometimes I got into

Dublin at 7am and we'd as-

semble at the Gresham hotel

"I might have a pint and

or Fishguard.

played them 10 times," Danny Blind, captain of Ajax and his country, said, "we would win six or seven times. But quality does not always count," Ireland and Chariton would probably con-

Cantwell relives the crack and the sadness of Paris

Phil Shaw encounters the Republic's 'towering force' of three

decades ago - Noel Cantwell (pictured left) - whose makeshift

team also travelled to a neutral ground, the Parc de Princes, for a

play-off that meant qualification for a major tournament finals in

What Jack Chariton would intical grounds. Then, after they of their lives within 24 hours. are out watching the dancing erning body, Fifa. girls of the Folies Bergère. "When Spain came to Da-

Charltoo's Ireland have a reputation for post-match partyiog. Victories were more scarce in the days when Noel Cantwell was the Republic's most-capped player, which may explain why, on that Parisian night, they were getting their celebrations in first.

'We didn't have a drink," twitikle in his eye in the lounge

ber of the Green Army roaring Charitoo's team on against the Netherlands. In the French capital 30 years ago last month, Cantwell was leading from the froot, or rather the back, as the Sport, George Orwell ooce the pretext of protecting its Aviv six months before the eight. Seven years oo it was the Republic's centre-half and cap decreed, is an unfalling cause nationals.

Aviv six months before the eight. Seven years oo it was the World Cup was due to open in turn of the Republic of Ireland, tain against Spain.

That match was also a playoff for the last place in a major tournament in England. Whereas Irish sights are currently set on next summer's European Championship finals, Cantwell's mind raced with thoughts of the 1966 World Cup as he joined the Football Association of Ireland's charter flight to France at Heathrow.

have made of it is anyone's had followed a 1-0 win in Dublin guess. The Sixties are in mid- over the only other team left in swing and the Republic of Ire-land team, who face the game defeat, a third match was ordered by the game's world gov-

> lymount Park I played np front," Cantwell recalled. "The crowd there got behind you if you were eothusiastic and whacked a few people, so after five minutes I charged into the keeper, who was a buge fella, about 6ft 4in. "He gave me a real mouth-

ful, but soon another cross Cantwell assured me with a came in right under the bar. I ran at him, but didn't touch bar of his pub in Peterborough. him. Instead I shouted at him. "But the crack was good, and then we went back to our hotel." and he palmed the ball straight then we went back to our hotel." en we went back to our hotel." into the net. When be was veoue. "We were hoping for Tonight, this 63-year-old son asked later what'd bappened, Goodison or Old Trafford,"

England. The prize against Spain was a place in the 1966 World Cup Spain, then European champions, staged the return in Seville. That was an incredibly partisan place, with 30,000 jamined in. If they needed a re-

suit they took teams there rather than Madrid. No one got out of there winning." The Republic were no exception, and Joe Wickham, genial godfather of the FAL was left to negotiate a neutral

on the toss of a coin."

of Cork will be another mem- be pointed to his bead and Cantwell said. There was a ru- Cantwell as a "towering force" you had to be born in the Re- nists took power, and people the most modest expenses, squad was chosen by a com-

mour that we took a bung to in a gallant rearguard action. go to Paris, which Spain want- . But with 11 minutes left, Lopez Ufarte hit the only goal, and ed, but I was told it was done frantic pressure could not force So, via the Folies, to the extra time. They were better than us,

Parcides Princes, where hish tricolours were swamped by Spanish flags in the 40,000 crowd. Cantwell was back in defence, with his Manchester United colleagues, Shay Brennan and Tony Dunne, while Eamon Dumphy, just out of his teens, made his debut in midfield.

so close to the finals." He does not, however, believe it holds any omens for Aufield, for they were very

and I remember Luis Suarez

was different class," Cantwell

admitted, but it was a sad

'night because we'd never been

public. We tiida't have enough top-class players, so you'd have someone like Johnny Giles alongside a Fourth Division player or part-timer from the League of Ireland.

"Also, most of our games" were friendlies. I never played in Belfast, for example, but I of- at midday after Mass. You ten played in Prague and Warsaw. They were the only invitations we got. We played at Katowice once with 110,000

there. Very few Westerners had

could be playing Italy but there was oo time for tactical discussion. You just went up to Dalymount and got stuck

The Irish Times described different times. "For a start, been there since the Commu- The match fee was £50 and in charge at Coventry-yet the

were just staring at us on the ous.

Such as a 55 batifacts, contine"Another thing was that we by challenged. Even the kit ly challenged. Even the kit was archaic. When he was with West Ham, Cantwell took his own shorts over. He can still see Giles poiling a pair with a 38inch waist over his head,

to represent his country (for whom he also played at cricket). Nowadays in a 13-year international career, he might didn't always approve of us going off to play for Ireland, especially if it was a friendly and United had a midweek match. You might develop a twinge

part-time managers - Cantwell did the job briefly when he was udged whether you were bet-

Maurice Setters (whom Cantwell partnered at United

The sometimes fatal danger of the sudden-death play-off

of ill-will writes Phil Shaw. Play-off football has made an aufortunate habit of bearing him out, never more so than after El Salvador beat Honduras in Mexico City for the right to meet Haiti in yet another play-off for a place in the 1970 World Cup finals.

Their two previous games had provoked rioting in which expatriates from both countries were attacked in the Fate was doing its bit for the. other. Three days after the Republic Syria withdrew from third meeting, the Salvadoran their qualifying section on po- army invaded Honduras on out, and they travelled to Tel

In the ensuing conflict -now known as "the Football War", though the games were an excuse rather than the cause - 3,000 died before the Organisation of American States brokered an uneasy peace.

Strife in the Middle East led to Wales becoming embroiled in a play-off as early as 1958. When Arab nations refused to play Israel, the names of seveo European group runners-up were put in the Jules Rimet Trophy. Wales's was drawn Sweden. There were tank tracks on

the pitch and refugees in the dressing-rooms. The British press had to submit copy to the Israeli censor, one reporter eventually filing via an Army field telephone on the touchline. The news was good, Wales's 2-0 victory being their first on foreign soil.

They repeated the margin in Cardiff and west on to beat Hungary in another play-off during the fauls to Jeude who went through to the last

has a ruptured cruciate ligament,

which requires an operation.
The club's Republic of Ire-

land striker Niall Quinn suffered

a similar injury in November 1993. He missed the World

Cup the following summer, but after a long lay-off, Quinn has

The American goalkeeper Ian Feuer is thinking over a £530,000 move to Luton Town

after West Ham decided to let

TODAY'S

NUMBER

fully recovered.

whose defeat by Spain is recalled oo this page by Noel Captwell, but two decades passed before another team from these islands experienced

a one-off decider.

The 1985 tussle between Scotland and Australia was, in fact, a two-off with a place in the World Cup finals the prize. After winning 2-0 in Glasgow, the Scots - under the managership of Alex Ferguson trekked 11,000 miles to Melbound 10 years age this

They were away nine days, become a symbol of post-Malv-three of which were spent travinas defiance. "The wee No elling, and also had to contend Dog" Arok. His bark proved no strangers to play-offs, the worse than his bine, a 0-0 draw national team having played taking the Tartan Army to neighbouring Belgium for a

Mexico. By the time Australia tangled with Argentina for a place, was manifested after only 90. at USA '94 they were coached by a Scot, Eddie Thomson. The first leg_in Sydney, was goalless. For the second, the Ar-ian referee and widely hlamed second in the Metherlands second whose "Hand of God" goal had successive failure to qualify. well be.

FA Carting Premierskip

inas defiance. "The wee No 10", as Thomson called Diego with psychological warfare waged by the Socceroos Yugoslav manager, Frank "Mad The Dutch, incidentally, are

> place in the same finals. The bad blood Orwell so disliked seconds of the first leg. Wim Kieft, a striker then playing for Pisa, was sent off by the Ital-

WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS GUIDE

men than players."
Chariton, in tandem with

and later bought for Coventry). has changed all that. Far from resenting the Anglo influence, or begridging the comparatively pampered players of the past decade, Cantwell wishes he could have been part of the success. Tonight, as one of the team behind the team, he may

46 Hibernian v Raith 49 Kilmamock v Partick

First Division

Kendall takes over at Sheffield United after Bassett reign ends

Howard Kendall stepped back into football management yesterday by taking charge of Sheffield United.

County the former Evertoo and Manchester City manager has lost almost two stone and has got himself fit for action. He has been waiting for a call, which came yesterday from

After Dave Bassett ended his eight-year spell with the Blades, their chairman Mike McDonald wanted a new-look team to lead his side after his protracted take-over. Kendall's immediate task will be to lift United out of the First Division relegation zone and he will be givco money to bring in new staff

After steering Sheffield United from the old Third Division to the Premiership, the last two years have not been as successful, with Bassett involved in a constant struggle for funds to a mooth following John Still's bolster his ailing team follow-

The Sheffield United board Posh after joining them from

paid glowing tribute to him in Grimsby in 1987 before his ca-knee injury. The 21-year-old, a statement vesterday, express-reer was ended by injury. ing their gratitude to Bassett "for the outstanding contribu-tion that he has made over the last eight years." Bassett said he was leaving reluctantly but with Since his short spell at Notts his head held high, "knowing that I have done my best with the limited resources made available to me."

> Daley Thompson, the gold medal-winning decathlete, could make his League debut at 38 for Third Division Mansfield at home to Cardiff on Saturday. "I don't know whether he is going to make the grade," the Stags' assistant-manager Keith Alexander said, "but he might have enough to see us through a difficult period over Christmas because of injuries."

pointment yesterday, Mick Halsall takes over the Second Division club Peterborough where he has been acting as resignation. Halsall played in more than 300 games for the

reer was ended by injury.
Birmingham City's captain, Liam Daish, has been suspended for the rest of the Anglo-Italian Cup pending a full inquiry into a brawl following a match against Ancooa last mooth, the Italian league said on Tuesday. The decision was

taken by Italian and English officials at a meeting last night. "Daish has been suspended as a precautionary measure." he said. "He was held responsible for the violent attack on Ancona trainer Massimo Cacciatori at the eod of the Ancona-Birmingham City match oo 15 November."

Ancona's Edoardo Artistico and Birmingham's Paul Tait were each suspended for one

Cacciatori, who said he was set upon in dressing-room cor-ridors, had surgery for a broken jaw and also suffered severe bruising and cuts to his left eye. He has said he will consider taking legal action. The Manchester City defender Richard Edghill is like-

ly to be out of action for the rest

of the season, because of a

The number of Ice-hockey players in America's National Hockey League who are paid salaries of more than

\$1m (£670,000) a season.

A year ago there were 106 in the millionaires' club and

just six in 1990-91.

Clubs in Japan and Greece vie for Maradona

Diego Maradona is considering offers to play for Japanese and Greek clubs in 1996. The 35year-old midfielder who captained Argentina to victory in the 1986 World Cup, has recently re-turned from a second drugs ban and is contracted to play for the Argentinian club Boca Juniors until December 1997.

However, his agent, Guiller-mo Coppola, said: There is a concrete and very good offer for Diego to go and play in Japan next year and also another from a club in Greece." Maradona, who is sidelined

with a stomach trouble, helped Boca to a seemingly unbeatable six-point lead in the Argentinian league by mid-November, but Boca have since crashed to consecutive defeats and lost any chance of winning the championship. .

George Best, Eusebio and Geoff Hurst have had their famous feet immortalised in cement casts for display in the Football Football restaurant, which will open in London oext year. They also presented some of their own treasures when they appeared at the restaurant's Haymarket site. Best handed over his 1967 European Foot-

Arsenal v Chelses Asson Villa v Coventry Beckburn v Middlesbrou 3 Beccount v Modingsrough 24 Man City v Nodingsam Forest 2* 5 Newcastle v Everton 1 1 6 QPR v Botton 1 1 7 Sheff Wed v Leeds X 2 West Harn v Southerspoon 1 1 9 Wimbledon v Totachtern 2 Pleying Sunday: Lherpool v Man Litd. **Pleying Sunday: Lherpool v Man Litd. Endsloigh Insurance League First Division 10 Bernsley v Charlton 11 Grimaby v Southers 12 Huddersfield v Wes

16 Reading v Sunderland. 17 Westord v Transmers Also playing – not on compons: Oldham v Biratrigham, Soder v Crystel Paleoc, Wokes-hampton v Port Vala. Sonday: Lalcaster v Nor-

Football 7.80 unless stated EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

baller of the Year award.

Third Division 30 Bury v Giftinghern 31 Chester v Preston 32 Colchester v Sour 13 Ipanich v Shelf Utd _ 14 Millwell v Derby ____ 15 Portsmouth v Luton .

LB Ellaciations v Braditors

iotheriands v. Rep of Ireland (8.0) .. ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP INTERNATIONAL STAGE GROUP A Senoz y Oldbym Perugia v Port Vale. GROUP B

Bresch v West Bro Reggians v Stoles Southend v Foggla BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE

36 Fultam v Northempton 37 Hardepool v Cambridge 37 Heristov v Cambridge 38 Uncoln v Plymouth 39 Mensfield v Cartiff 40 Torquey v Scarborough 41 Wigen v Herelord Smirsoff Irish League Premier Division 42 Artis v Glentoran 43 Crusaders v Bangor 44 Glensvon v Cliftorville Bell's Scottish League Premier Division 46 Aberdeen v Hearts 47 Cetac v Feldet

TODAY'S FIXTURES ICES LEAGUE Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Purilect (7,45). UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Ac-crington Stanley v Berrow.

crington Stanley v Berrow.

BEAZER HORSES LEASTIC Premaier Division:
Newport AFC v Atherstone (7.45).

LEASTIC OF WALESE Sirton Ferry Afan Lido.

PONTINS LEASTIC First Division: Bottom v
Notes County (7.0); Leads v Liverpool (7.0);
Notem Forest V Transers (7.0); Sectional Division: Hull v Busniety (7.0); Biddiesbrough
v Garmsby (7.0) (ar Harrispool); Sunderland
v Huddessfield (7.0); Tark v Bensey (7.0);
Third Division: Searborough v Bury (7.00);
Scurstonge v Lincoin (7.0); Stociont v Derlington (6.45); Walterl v Chester (7.0); Webharm v Shrewsbury (7.0).

ANON INSURANCE COMBINATION First
Division: Wambledon v Southampton (2.0).
Second: Division: Swansey v Chaltenhern.

All the same, he was proud have 100 caps rather than 36. Why so few? "Matt [Busby]

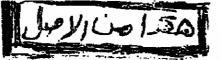
you never knew you had." The Republic had various

mittee of Irish club officials. "They never came over here to watch people. They went on your record, or by cuttings, and ter than some fella at home. We'd probably only have takco a couple of reserves to Paris. There were more FAI

50 Dundee v St. Johnstons 51 Dunfermine v Akdae 52 Greenock Montan v Dundee Utd 58 Hernitor v Dunderston 54 St. Mikken v Clydebank Second Division 56 Berwick v Montrose Also playing — not on coup ract; Starthousemult, v Ayr Third Phiston Y Spartans. Y Spartans. FOUR DRAWS: Bleckburn v Middlesbrough; Ipswich v Sheffield Utd; Chester v Preston; Torquey v Scarborough. TEN HOMES: Queen's Park Rangare; Ports-mouth; Swindon; Shrewebury; Darlington; Rogby Union HENDRA CUP Pool B: Uster v Beglos (7.0). CIS INSURANCE UNDER-21. COUNTY CHAM-PIONISHEP Midlands Final: East Midlands v North Midlands (at Northernocot). REPRESENTATIVE NUTCH: Army v N Zeeland Army (7.0) for Aldershot). SRU UNDER-21 INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPI-ONSHUP: Classow District v Seekish Enter; South of Seekind v North & Mid Seekish (6.0).

Other sports

ICE HOCKET: Olympic qualifier: Great Britain v Dermark (Million Keynes),



'Cricket is ruining my life' - Lara

TONY COZIER

specifical

are calives ruling

reports from Bridgetown,

A picture of Brian Lara as a player ill at ease with his captain, manager, some of his team-mates and even the game itself emerged yesterday from leaked excerpts of official re-ports on last summer's West Indies tour of England.

"He is always saying that 'cricket is running my life'," the team manager, Wes Hall, noted in his report carried in the Trinidad Guardian,

"I think, however, that cricket will save it. The commercial demand on his time is like an albatross around his neck. I believe Lara has a great role to play in West Indies cricket. It is imperative that we be aware of the pressure he undergoes."

Hall revealed that Lara. stormed out of a heated team meeting_following the Manchester Test after a verbal confrontation with captain Richie Richardson and announced, "I retire", Hall said he was "staggered" when Lara told him he was willing to forgo a recent offer of £3m from a bat manufacturer by his decision.

After an absence of three

days, the brilliant left-hander was persuaded to rejoin the team by West Indies board president, Peter Short, but was turn under Richardson and subsequently fined 10 per cent of his tour fee for his action. Piqued at the discipline, only handed down late last month, Lara withdrew from the team currently struggling without him on tour in Australia.

Richardson gives his side of the story in his report. He said Lara blamed him for the indiscipline in the team and claimed that he knew other players who. felt the same way. I respond-ed by saying that if the players felt that way and were not happy with my captaincy I would resign, but I would not be pushed by anyone who has got ambissy of his side's batting tious agendas," Richardson man I can't recall se wrote. He has been retained as worse than that."

captain for the Australian tour and for the World Cup in February and March.

Relating another incident, when Lara was given permission early in the tour to return to Trinidad on urgent business. Richardson described his "behaviour and conduct" to Hall as "abominable".

: "Wes Hall is one of the most respected Caribbean personalities and the way Brian spoke to him, in view of the fact that he was manager of the team, left me in shock," Richardson added. The latest revelations – that

include criticism by lan Bishop of the attitude of fellow fast bowlers Curtly Ambrose and Kenny Benjamin - have intensified the drama that has both fascinated and dismayed the West Indies cricket public.

Obsessed with the one sport that has united the diverse former British colonies in the Caribbean for almost 100 years, they had been taken aback by the recent upheavals. The possibility that Lara, the latest in their long line of great batsmen, may be lost to Test cricket has essed them.

The West Indies Board has summoned a special meeting in Barbados on Friday to see how it can bring the impasse to what Short calls "a happy end-

The way out is not easy. It is clear that Lara is unlikely to reinto a team in which he cannot. feel comfortable. The West Indies rely so heavily on his hatting that there is a groundswell of opinion that everything should be done, again in Short's phrase, "to rehabilitate" him. But not all members of the

Board are inclined to bend over backwards quite as far as Lara seems to be demanding. The West Indies hatting, meanwhile, continues to falter in Australia, falling to 92 all out to the Under-21s of the Academy

yesterday. Their eight-wicket-defeat prompted Richardson to say of his side's betting: "Pathetic, man. I can't recall seeing us bat

UNIVERSITY MATCH: Cambridge find inspiration in late drama to overcome spirited Oxford



Lock-out: Cambridge's Charles Simpson keeps his head down as he takes on Oxford at Twickenham yesterday

Enterprising Evans adds final twist

STEVE BALE

reports from Twickenham Oxford University Cambridge University

A thundering climax in which the fate of the 114th University match lurched from one side to the other left Oxford with the darkest of dark blues last night after losing one lead through a contentious penalty try and then another to the ultimate matchwinner by Jonathan Evans.

All this took place during five alternately agonising and ecstatic final minutes. Oxford were clinging on as if their lives depended on it - which is roughy how the participants view this occasion - to the 16-9 lead given them by the superlative Irish ont-half David Humphreys.

In the most desperate defence Tyrone Howe inserted himself into yet another Cambridge attack, prompting Tony Spread-

deliberate offside as the ball fell the unfamiliar territory of the to ground. Spreadbury said he had warned the Dark Blues and Howe in particular that his patience was wearing thin. You would not expect Howe.

a dignified as well as defeated captain, to accept the referee had been right - and he and his coach, Lynn Evans, said so afterwards as politely as they could. But the try, followed by Rob Ashforth's equalising conversion, was but Oxford made their way into magen, Rush and De Bruyn.

Considering the sniffy attitude a try when Humphreys danced of some soulless folk towards past Nick Holgate, When he con-Cambridge balf and when Humphreys hit the post with a this fixture - though not, one drop-shot he was given, and supposes, the 70,000 who turned took, a penalty which might just have been Spreadbury's way of up yesterday - it is astounding how it contrives to throw up such vivid incident. Last year's, also won by Cambridge, was an epic

making up for the penalty try. The game was then 50 seconds into stoppage time when Cam-hridge made their last assault. of fluctuating fortunes and if this had less to commend it overall, Evans may be a hooker but he it was a no less thrilling examnot only insinuated himself into ple of the underdog biting back. midfield but in making the Oxford line had the beating of Mer-

No wonder Oxbridge captains and coaches talk down their chances year by year. In 1994 Cambridge were the rank outsiders; this time Oxford were supposedly even less favoured, yet they established a lead which they held for 59 minutes and during the fairly hrief period when they were winning a share of the hall they played a fluid, pleasant type of rugby not always in keeping with the occasion.

Ashforth's early penalty, the first of these was easeelled by

first of three, was cancelled by Humphreys' only success from four drop-goal attempts followed by two penalties and then Ponalties Humphreys 3; Drop goal Humphreys. Score the winning try.

verted he equalled Gareth Rees's Oxford record of 16 points set last year: with his final penalty he equalled Alastair Hignell's Uni-versity match record of 19, for Cambridge in 1975.

It was cold comfort. The Dark Blues had pushed themselves to the limit in huilding a surprising lead and their only realistic objective after Humphreys's try was to defend their lines.

That they did so as well, and for as long, as they did was its own testimony, "Rarely have I played a side that has been written off as much, and rarely have I played in a side that has played with as much courage as that side," Howe said – an intriguing view given that it has been Oxford themselves who have been most prominent in downplaying their prospects. In the end you could say they had been right.

Combinings University: Trees Evens, pensity by: Con-version Ashforth, Pensities Addition 3, Oxford Uni-

Oxford pay the penalty

sport

TIM GLOVER

If Lady Luck was an under-graduate she must have gone to Cambridge. Oxford, the darkest of dark horses, paid the harshest of penalties for defending their line and then suffered the cruellest of defeats.

In a matter of minutes, joy for the Dark Blues turned to despair, to elation and finally to the worst moment of all in a Varsity match, shattering defeat.

The unfortunate consequence of an extraordinary climax is that the 114th game in the series will be remembered not so much for Jonathan Evans' winning try in injurytime, not so much for a recordbreaking contribution of 19 points from the Oxford standoff, David Humphreys, but for the most bemusing and controversial decision by the referee. Tony Spreadbury awarded Cambridge a penalty try when they were trailing 16-9 with five minutes to go.

The Light Blues had been pressing for most of the second half when Tyrone Howe tackled his opposite number and, when the ball fell loose, Cambridge knocked on with the line at their mercy. Spreadbury signalled a penalty try, the first in the history of the Varsity match. Howe, the Oxford captain, asked Spreadhury one question: why? The referee replied: "Oxford were offside three times in a row."

Later Spreadbury claborated. There was a try-scoring opportunity," he said. 'And Oxford were deliberately offside. I'd men tioned to them that we couldn't keep going down the line of awarding penalty after penalty." Lynn Evans, the Oxford

coach, also questioned the decision, "To award a penalty try." Evans said, "there has got to be the probability of scoring. There wasn't and the ball was dropped. anyway. It was not the best decision he made in the game.

It was certainly the most contentious. Evans pointed out that when Ashforth kicked the conversion to level the scores. there was silence from the crowd, not out of respect but bewilderment. In the final minute Humphreys, who had given Oxford a 16-6 lead at half-time. kicked a penalty after a drop goal artempt hit an upright and there was still time for Evans to

Pooley coolly hauls England A to safety

England A 199 and 191-8 Pakistan A:300 (Match drawn)

A determined unbroken ninthwicket stand between Jason Pooley and Dean Headley, who put on 49 in 52 minutes, salvaged a draw in the third "Test" and confirmed England As

1-0 series victory. But there was a distinct air of embarrassment in the English camp after a nervy afternoon collapse from 80 for 2 to 142 for 8, which had left them staring at defeat. :.

At tea England A were just 48 runs in front, but the Middiesex left-hander Pooley took charge of the situation. Never afraid to play his shots, he made sure the field did not creep in too closely around the bat and his controlled aggression made. sure the runs against time equation began to go England's way. It was fitting that Headley

should play a key role at the end, albeit with the bat. The Kent fast bowler's 17 wickets in the three "Tests" have made him the major discovery of a trip designed to he the breeding ground of future Test cricketers.

said: "Everything we set out to achieve could have been lost today, and almost was. It was a sitnation we created for ourselves."

7-126, 8-142.
Mile well beits E.S. H. Girddins.
Mile well beits E.S. H. Girddins.
Mile Well beits E.S. H. Girddins.
22-6-25-2; Shedid Anwor 2-1-4-0; Alvern Roza
15-1-1-33-1; Seimen Foral 16-8-20-3; Aelf
Mugaba 1-0-4-0; Bober Zaman 2-0-6-0;
Shehid Jawed 1-0-1-0.

bury to award the penalty try for Pavin prepares for a pay day Mathis no threat to Bruno-Tyson

and Sam Torrance are among the 20 players competing for a first prize of nearly £350,000 in the Johnnie Walker World John Emburey, the manager. Championship starting tomorrow at Tryall, Jamaica. Their hopes of winning the pre-Christmas jackpot are enhanced by the fact that seven of the world's top

Pooley not out J Piper c Wasm Yousuli b Salmen Fazal 1 ficient allure.

Nick Faldo, Colin Mootgomerie

12 players are not taking part. Anybody unaware of the riches on offer in golf would find it hard to believe that a player could turn down the chance of week of Caribbean sunshine when even last place carries a £35,000 prize. However, that there are now so many end-ofseason pay days that another one, it seems, does not have suf-

Corey Pavin, for instance, has, in the two months since the American tour ended, been

handed cheques for £1m in South Africa, £225,000 in Hawaii and £240,000 in California. Pavin did not even win two of those events, Ben Crenshaw taking home £400,000 from the two-day Grand Slam of Golf and Fred Couples £270,000 from the one-day

Skins game. Barry Lane, David Frost, Mark McCumber and Masahiro Kuramoto will care little that they are not in the Jamaica. line-up either. At the end of this month they will be in Arizona competing for another million-

dollar first prize. The Johnnie Walker event aims to bring together all the world's best golfers for an end-of-season showdown. The cast this time harely approaches that hilling: Greg Norman and Nick Price, the world No 1 and No 2, are also among the ab-sentees, and of the four 1995

only the Open champion, John Daly, is present.

The American hardly distinguished himself the last time he played at Tryall. That was in 1991, the year he won the US PGA. and he was disqualified for signing for a wrong score. He still left the Caribbean \$50,000 richer.

The event's sponsors. Johnnie Walker, are pulling out after this year, believing that five years is enough support for a champi-onship which draws players from all over the globe, but not always the ones they wanted. Faldo, winner in 1992 and

joint runner-up behind Ernie Els last December, will be the focus of media attention following the break-up of his second marriage. Montgomerie, meanwhile 11th out of 12 in the Million Dol lar Challenge a fortnight ago, will be trying to find a higher note on which to end a season in which he became Europe's major championship winners No I for the third year running.

Boxing

Buster Mathis Jnr does not stand out in a crowd. He is no heavyweight giant, no man mountain and seemingly will pose no danger to Frank Bruno's date with Mike Tyson in Las Vegas on 16 March.

Because Mathis measures up to everything Tyson needs in his second comeback at the Philadelphia Spectrum on Saturday, an engagement given the thumbs down in November and knocked out of New Jersey because of Don King's promo tional block in Atlantic City now finds a home in the City of Brotherly Love.

The last thing Tyson needs at this delicate stage of his new ring career is to run straight into one of the hig breed of heavyweights such as Lennox Lewis or Riddick Bowe - or Brune - without proving something to himself.

old Tyson. But the new Tyson needs to get back into the ring once more to feel the right fighting vibes before facing Bruno despite the memory of their previous meeting in Fehruary, 1989 when Iron Mike was world champion, Big Frank was not and it was over in five rounds.

And while Mathis has fast hands, he does not hurt at this level - as a record of just six stoppages in 20 fights illustrates - so Tyson can take comfort in the fact that his chin will come under no serious siege, or have to prove his spell in jail has not diluted his punch resistance. He realises, too, that the 89-

second farce against Peter Mc-Necley in August, after four years out of the ring, is no preparation on which to mount his hid to sweep up all the world titles for the second time in his life, hence the urgency to for ge head with the Mathis fight.

It would not have worried the Lewis says: "I get the impression that Tyson is very uncertain. He can now see a new generation of really hig heavyweights. like Bowe and myself. Since he went inside. I think he's got a problem with his confidence he knows there are big punchers around these days.

Tyson is likely to find Bruno a different proposition than when they first fought - a fighter buoyed by his possession of the long-awaited World Boxing Council title, a stone and half heavier, six years wiser and a league higher in confidence.

'I wasn't mentally right the first time," said Bruno, who will be at ringside on Saturday to be gin the promotional sell for his March defence. "Now I'm confident I can knock Tyson out."

Tyson, meanwhile, is talking a good fight on behalf of his opponent from Grand Rapids, Michigan, saying Mathis is

American football Ban Maria broke another NFL passing record, but Mami Dolphins had their defense to thank as they stayed in the ing record, but Main's Dolphins has their defence to thank as they stayed in the play-off chase with a 13-6 wint over Kansas City Chiefs. Marino threw 156 yards and a four-yard touchdown pass to OJ McDuffie in the second quarter. In the fourth quarter he passed Fran Tarkanton as the NFL's all-time passents as the NFL's all-time passents as the NFL's all-time passents. ing attempts leader with 6;468 yards. Marino has broken the marks held by

NFL: Mami 13 Kansas City 6. .

. 11 .0. 227 .349 WESTERN DIVISION ses City ___11 3 0 312 221 and ____8 8 0 310 257 a 0 310 257 7 0 340 297

Athletics .

Beifast has been confirmed as host city for the 1999 World Cross-Country Championships. A spokesman for the anonal Ameteur Athletic Federation Council, meeting in Monte Carlo, said: "The council warns to support the peace process and to go back to a country where cross-country has a deep

At the same meeting, the WAF council evended the 1997 Grand Prix final to Fukuoka, Japan, the 1997 world halfmarethon championships to Kosice, 510vakia, the 1997 world race walk cup 1998 world junior championships to An-

Atlanta Braves, the World Series cham-pions, collected more than \$200,000 (£135,000) a man as their share of the (£135,000) a man as their state of the players cool of money drawn from post-season gate receipts, Major Leagua Basebatt armounced yesterday. MBA: Dense 104 Philadelphia 91; Utah 110 Charlotte 100:

David Boon and Brendon Julian have been dropped from the Australian team for the Rist block of matches in the World Seines limited-overs tournament against Sri Lanka and the West Indies. Shane

Sri Lanke and the West Indies. Share Lee, who has been in outstanding form for New South Wales, was called up to make his international debut and Michael. Beven was recalled. Steve Waugh and Paul Refffel were not considered because of injuries. India's women are poised to win the third and finel Test against England—and square the series—in Hydrabad today. England, who drew the first Test and won the second by two runs; go into the last day requiring a further 264 runs for an improbable victory with nine second innings wickets standing. After Karen Smithes' side had slumped to 98 all out on a deastrous second day. 98 all out on a disastrous second day, india decia: d their second innings on 216 for 7, Chandra Kenta Ahir top scor-ing with 67. England's victory target was 302, but Helen Plimmer was then out for a duck before Jan Brittin (27 not out) and Barbara Daniels (10 not out) guided the tourists to 38 for 1 by the

CIOSE.
THERD WOMEN'S TEST (Hydershad, third day); lade Women 184 is Shaw 65. C. Laylor 4-38) and 216-7dec (C Kenta Ahr 67). England Women 98 and 98-1.
TOUR MATCH (Mollongong, Aus); West Indees 92 (R Actasydson St.) Benny 3-23); Australian (Incet Ausdenny 36-2 (Richards 25). ACC win by eight wickets.

Drugs in sport

Russian hurdler Lyudmile Narozhilenko and German distance runner tris Biba. The IAAF reinstated the two athletes under their exceptionel circumstances rule. Both athletes were banned for four years after testing positive for steroids.

Football

Birmingham's Welsh International mid-fielder, Jason Bowen, will be trut of ac-tion for times months after having surgery to remove a cyst from behind a knee. 10. remové a cyst from behand a inec.
"SUSPENSIONS in the FA Carling Premieratip and Endaloligit Insurance Langue Plast Dividios: Sendings-off: L Bowyer (Charthor) 1 match from 19 Dec; J Hughes (Tranment) 4 matches from 19 Dec; J Hughes (Tranment) 4 matches from 17 Dec. 21, persetty points: M Ford (Leeds United) 2 matches from 16 Dec; C Hughes (Luten Town) 2 matches from 16 Dec; C Hughes (Luten Town) 2 matches from 16 Dec; S Grayaon (Lebester City) 2 matches from 19 Dec.

NHL: Florida 2 New Jersey 1; NY Rangars 3 Delles 2; Colorado 5 Toronto 1: Tampa Bay 3 Bufalo 1; Calgary 3 Los Angeles 2.

...18 7 2 107 64 38

_14 10 5 92 85 33

__13 12 4 77 79 **30**

PACIFIC DIVISION Colorado18 a 4 134 90 40 Los Angeles12 12 a 96 97 30 Anasheim11 17 3 92 98 25

_5 20 4 a7 137 14 **Motor racing** Motor racing
Only three drivers took part in the opening day of Formula One testing at Estorii on Monday. Michael Schumacher,
the reigning F1 champion, was fastest
with a lap of 1 min 22.14sec, his Ferrari team-mate. Eddle Invine, clocked
1:23.00 despite a transmission probiem. Gerhard Berger, who has switched
to Benetton from Ferrari, managed a
best lan of 1:23.89.

Rugby Union Richard Goodev, the Newport captain will be out of action until the new year after picking up a back injury in his side's Helneken League victory at Cardiff last

Worcester have been given a £1.2m National Lottery grant – believed to be the biggest given to a rugby club – to fund a major ground development at their Six

month.

The international federation, the FIS, has switched two women's World Cup races postponed from Canada's Rocky Mountains to Switzerland and Slovenia. The Swiss resort of Veysonnez will host a slalom on 22 December in addition to a super-G and glant statom already scheduled there on 20-21 December, while Maribor, in Stovenia, will be given a glant statom on 5 January. Maribor is due to host a glant statom and statom of 7 January.

slalom on 6-7 Jenuary.

SPORTING DIGEST paid to poor New Zealand

Cricket Pakistan 208 and 434 New Zealand 286 and 195 (Pakistan win by 161 runs)

Mushtag Ahmed finished with career-best figures of 7 for 56 yes-terday and Waqar Younis became, at 24, the youngest bowler to take 200 Test wickets as Pakistan wrapped up victory over New Zealand in the one-off Test at Christchurch.

Roger Twose, the former War-

wickshire batsman, top-scored for New Zealand with 51 not out. (Fourth day, New Zealand won inst)
PANISTAN - First Innings 208 (Aarnt So-hall 88, Ramic Raje 54; C Ceims 4-51).
MEW ZEALAND - First Innings 298 (C Carrts 76, R Twose 59; Wasen Alvam 5-53).
PANISTAN - Second Innings 434 first Ahmed 103, Insamam-ul-Heg 821

NEW ZEALAND - Second Inning Young c Leof b Mushtag Speemen c Sohall b Mushtag ... on run out. G Larsen e Schei b Mushteq Nash b Wagar

Extres (b9, nb4, w., w.) 195 Total 1-50 2-57 3-50 4-50 5-75 6-101 7-131 8-163 9-192 1-131 8-163 9-192 1-131 8-163 9-192 1-13-10: Wactr Youns 26-6-73-1; Mushtan Ahmed 34.4-13-56-7; Ata-tr-Rehman 9-1-23-1. Umpires: S Durne and a C Cooray (Sn Larke).

Mushtaq puts | Fighting clause thrown out

ice hockey

A clause in the contract of the Toronto Maple Leafs forward Ken Baumgartner that would have rewarded him for fighting has been scrapped. The National Hockey League arbitrator, George Nicolau, made the ruling after hearing arguments from the NHL and the NHL Players' Association.

Toronto had agreed to pay Baumgartner a \$10,000 (£6,000) bonus if he reached 170 minutes in penalties this season and as much as \$55,000 (£36,000) if he British passport last week.

ranked event, after the Grand, Henley Royal Regatta proved

rules for the five different events they offer for eights. This has complaint from the clubs and universities that have in the past felt themselves in the wrong event, and the uneven spread of entries in pursuit of each cup. The nub of the problem is the

enhancing the deal, said Bill Watters, Toronto's assistant general manager. The prolific Sieve Moria is set

Baumgartner's agent, suggest-

ed the clause during contract ne-

gotiations as a means of

to make his debut as Great Britain continue their campaign to qualify for the 1998 Winter Olympics against Denmark at Milton Keynes tonight. The Canadian-born forward is ready to help his adopted country's cause after only being granted his

Henley remains in the black Ladies' Plate, the second

its enduring profitability again in 1995 with a £180,000 surplus, writes Hugh Matheson. The Henley Stewards have approved a comprehensive

overhaul of the qualification been spurred by a rising level of

which is for world class crews. Many clubs and colleges prefer the third event, the Thames Cup. The Stewards have found it increasingly difficult to distinguish between the ordinary chibs whose natural home is the Thames Cup and the Super Clubs which they would prefer to find in the Ladies Plate.

The new rule bars any crew with more than two ex-internationals and any group whose main purpose is to produce international calibre crews, from entering the Thames Cup.

Nicol walks all over Walker

Peter Nicol demolished Chris Walker in straight games in the Mahindra Challenge final in Bombay vesterday. The 22-year-old sixth seed took only 40 minutes to scoop the £9,700 first prize by recording a 15-8, 15-11, 15-10 win over the fifth seed.

Both men beat higher seeded players to reach the final. The Scottish champion defeated the No 2 seed, Brett Martin, in the semi-finals, while England's Walker beat the defending champion and top seed. Rodney Eyles. Walker said: "I just could not get going. I think Nicol was

too good for me today." Indeed Walker was at his best only in the second game where he led 5-1. However, Nicol pulled back to 7-7 and then won the next five points.

RESULTS

Football AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Arsenal 4 Oxford Uto 1; Wattord () Crystal Palace 1 Second Division: Pymouth O Cardiff ().

Rugby Union UNIVERSITY MATCH: Oxford 19 Combratge 21 (ar Twickerham). LINDER-21 INTERNATIONAL: England 21 Scotland 18 (at Gareshead sta UNDER-21 UNIVERSITY MATCH: Oriord 13 Cambridge 3 (at The Stoop).

England meet Italy on the road to France

Football

England were given one of the toughest of tasks when the draw for the analifying com-petion for the 1998 World Cup was made in Paris yesterday. Terry Venahles' team were

drawn in a group with Italy, Poland, Georgia and Moldova. Both Italy, heaten finalists in the 1994 World Cup, and Poland have qualified at England's expense in recent times.
Io 1973 Poland put out Sir Alf
Ramsey's men while four years
later Italy deprived Ron
Greenwood's side of a place in the finals in Argentina.

Venables' side also face the prospect of difficult journeys to two countries who have emerged from the former Soviet Union, Moldova and Georgia. Both handed out hu-

> **GROUP ONE** Denmark

Greece

Croatia

Slovenia

GROUP TWO

Italy ENGLAND

Poland -

Georgia

GROUP THREE

Norway Switzerland

Finland

Hungary

Azerbaijan

GROUP FOUR

Sweden

SCOTLAND

Austria

Belarus

COUP TI

Russia

Bulgaria

Israel Cyprus

Luxembourg

miliating beatings to Wales in and Armenia the qualifying campaign for For the R

Scotland face Sweden, who they lost to in a friendly earlier this season, as well as Austria, and another three of the former Soviet Union sides. Belarus and the Baltic states of Estonia and Latvia in a six-

team group.

Wales will take on Belgium, who they beat in the qualifying competition for the 1994 World Cup, as well as the Netherlands. Turkey, Euro '96 finalists in England next sum-mer, are also in the same group, which is made up by San

Northern Ireland received perhaps the toughest draw of all. They are np against Ger-many and Portugal, with whom they drew 0-0 in Oporto in Sep-

GROUP SIX

Czech Republic

Slovakia

Faroe Islands

GROUP SEVEN

Netherlands

Belgium:

.Turkey

WALES

Sari Marino

GROUP EIGHT

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Lithuania

Iceland

Macedonia Liechtenstein.

GROUP NINE

Germany:

NORTHERN IRELAND

Ukraine

Albania

The ritie group winners and the best runner-up qualify for the finals, in France. The other eight numers-up will be drawn into pairs for play-offs winners qualifying for the finals in France.

Romania

World Cup 1998

European Qualifying Section

For the Republic of Ireland, drawn in the six-strong group eight, there is a chance to make up for the embar-rassment of being held to a goalless draw by Liechtenstein last summer and the opportunity to recall the famous penalty shoot-out win over Romania in Italy in 1990. The group is made up by the former Yugoslav republic of Macedo-nia, Lithuania and Iceland.

The Republic of Ireland manager, Jack Charlton, said: Romania are the only team there that you would say had excellent quality. Even so I be-lieve that many of their top players are coming towards the end of their careers.

We remember them of course from the penalty shoot-out in the World Cup finals in

"And they also did well in America, of course. To me, it looks like them or us to win the group hecause there are no other teams we know we can't

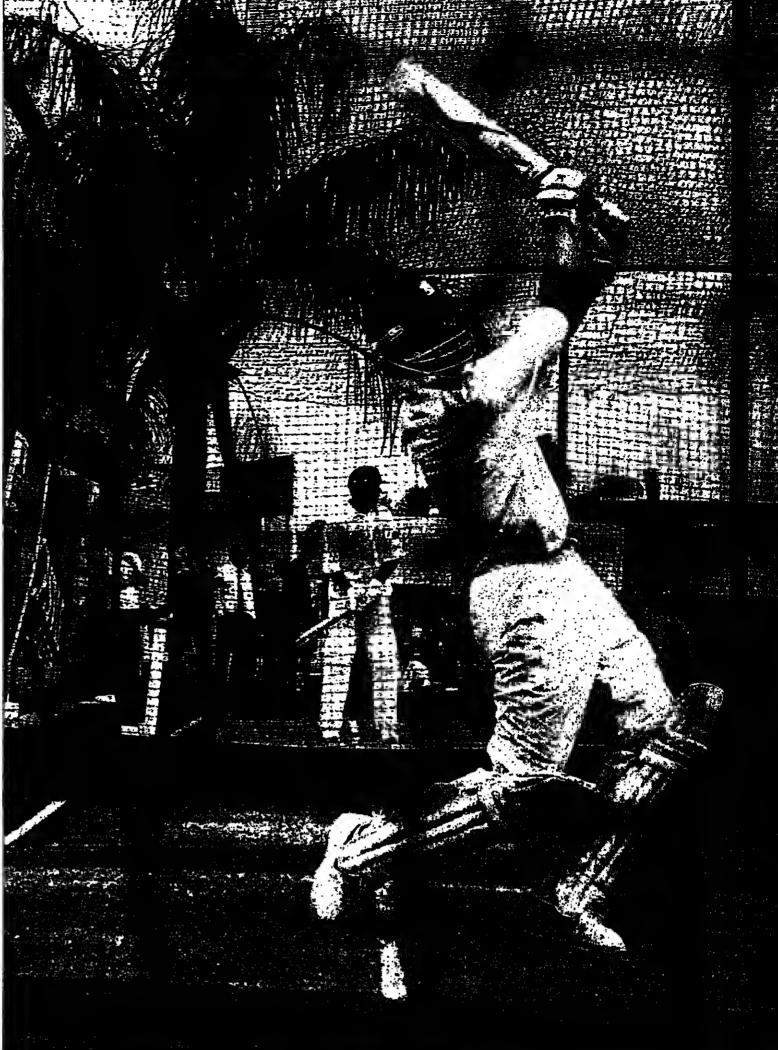
After the disappointments of the rocky road to the 1994 World Cup, in which the Republic of Ireland alone reached the finals (the first time in 40 years that none of the four home nations had managed to qualify) expectations will be high that a huge force of Channel-hoppers will descend oo France in twoand-a-half years' time.

The passports to the outer reaches of the continent were handed out at the end of the 90-minute gala draw by Milan's Liherian striker, George Weah, and France's Just Fontaine, who scored a record 13 goals in the 1958 finals in

But that was only after an increasingly anxious wait as the ceremony roamed across the globe, with draws for Asia, Africa, Oceania and North and Ceotral America. Eventually, the 49 Euro-

pean teams ready to join battle for the 14 places available alongside the hosts began to know their fate, with Wales, in the fourth hatch of seeds, the first of the home countries to be pulled, in group seven.

Next came Bryan Hamil-on's Northern Ireland in the third group of seeds, and immediately facing three trips to the eastern edge of the conti-nent. And then England, Scotland and finally the Republic. The race was on.



John Crawley (foreground) and Graeme Hick prepare in the nets for the third Test with South Africa in Durban yesterday

Major's EU warrang:

adepth states

Road to ruin

The most experience built in Fortune

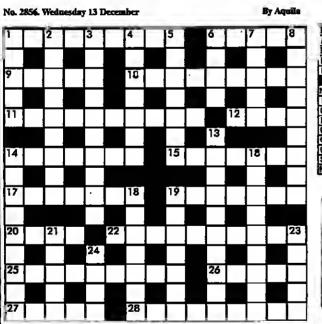
Chiese dissident pairs!

day of the Alice

loday's weather

Car and and

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS 20 Chap on foot, Bill, upset 22 when confined by shackle (9) Way a politician makes his 25 mark? (5)

Some Africans forbid famil- 26 iar mode of address in France 27 Ring fitted to wild game 28 should make one sound loud-

11 Dog takes a test around ring, in care of keeper (10) Busy creature at opening of

tulip is a sugar-producer (4) 2 Higher course for those qualfied marines, perhaps? (7) Pledge is put back into ware- 3 house (7) End of first editions? These 4

papers may be thrown away

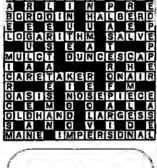
Something to defend people 6 from unorthodox giant Eng- 7 lish openers (7)

Propose tenderly in deep 8 resonant tones (10) Exhausted, having trated too much (9) Society high-point, say (5) Wood-nymph cutting adver-tisement (5) Beloved certain to be in

step? (9) DOWN Like a solid youngster in charge? (5)

One does not learn much from Omar, using a transla- 23 tion (9) Indecent language, a trouble 24 in the Cotswolds (4,6)
Lover married, unfortunate-

ly (7) Scrooge pulling up short (7) Pass out in the trenches (4) Got up like a climber, possi



bly? (5) Natty reps turned out in Welsh resort (9) Pooh's tea is prepared as a perfect example of its type Cabinet-maker settled in Ar-den, for example (9) Spectacles always for tourist?

(10) Striking stranger in street (7) Girl taking part in mean nettennis (7) 21 Sad air, for example, in cathe-

dral city (5) Wild donkey has no name for being harnessed (5) Dues paid out when employed (4)

llott doubt for Durban

Cricket

Mark Hott's chances of playing in the third Test could depend on how quickly he recovers from a mild bout of food poisoning. The Essex left-arm pace-man missed yesterday's practice session after complaining of an upset stomach following Monday night's visit to a Japanese staurant. England expect flott to be back on parade today, and competing for a place against South Africa 24 hours later.

With Darren Gough ruled out by a hamstring injury, Hott, Peter Martin and Richard Illingworth would appear to be contesting one place. "It's going to be a last-minute job again," said the manager, Ray Illingworth, when asked about coloring place. "The litch is selection plans. "The pitch is quite damp and green at present play at any time," he said, but things can change very Gatting, Ramprakash's cap-

quickly here if the sun shines." Mark Ramprakash was also confined to quarters because of a heavy cold but, after three failures in as many Test innings this winter, his place has already been earmarked for John Crawley. Ramprakash is left to heed the advice of the former England captain Mike Gatting as he contemplates his latest failure to translate prolific County Championship form to the international arena.

In Paarl last Sunday, Ramprakash followed three consecutive Test failures with a third-ball duck during the hastily arranged limited-overs match against Boland. However, the 26-year-old batsman remains sanguine. "Ive spoken to Gatt on the phone and he has urged me to stay involved, not lock myself away, and be prepared to

tain at Middlesex, took a loog time himself to break through on the international stage, and he will know better than most the disappointment and sense of despair Ramprakash is experiencing. "I feel I have let so many people down," said Ram-prakash, who is being dropped from tomorrow's third Test against South Africa in Durban after starting the five-match series with scores of nine, four and nought

The worst thing is that Mike Atherton and Ray Illingworth showed faith in me by giving me the first two Tests and I didn't repay them. I know there could be some long days ahead but it's important to stay chirpy around the guys who are playing."
With seven front-line batsmen

on tour, and England currently using six, it only requires one injury for Ramprakash to find himself considered for selection.

Du Plessis and Christie to stay

Rugby Union

Morue du Plessis and Kitch Christie, who managed and coached the Springboks to vic-tory in the Rugby World Cup, will retain their posts for oext year's New Zealand tour of South Africa.

They had talked of resigning after South Africa's victory in their first World Cup after being banned from the previous two because of apartheid. But the South African Rugby Football Union said yesterday they would stay on for the oew Tri-Nation series against Australia and New Zealand, followed by the All Blacks' three-Test tour in August.

Du Plessis, a former Springbok, was credited with maintaining the squad's emotional to Christic about coaching the well-being in the World Cup provincial side.

amid tremendous pressure from expectant South African fans. He has been dropped as a selector for the Springbok side to affirm his "paternal role" as a

confidente and advisor to the players, a Sarfn statement said. Christie has coached South Africa to 14 straight Test victories, including six in the World Cup that culminated with the 15-12 extra-time defeat of New Zealand. He devised the hlanket defensive strategy that neutralised the All Black wing

The Sarfu statement said Christie would only commit himself to staying on as coach through the All Black tour. At the same time, Sarfu said the Transvaal Rugby Union had sought permission to talk

Jonah Lomu in the final.

had no objections to Christie assuming the Transvaal position because it would give him firsthand knowledge of provincial players and exposure to Austratians and New Zealanders competing in next year's Super 12 provincial series.

In its statement, Sarfu said it

A former Springbok Ray Mordt, who later played rugby league with Wigan, was appointed as one of two assistant coaches to Christie. Mordt was Christie's original

choice when he accepted the job in August last year, but his rugby league ties caused the International Rugby Football Board to block his appointment. The radical changes subse-

quently introduced by the IRFB have allowed Sarfu to appoint Mordt as coach of the backs and general squad fitness advisor.

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